



UNITED STATES QUAD RUGBY ASSOCIATION

**CLASSIFICATION MANUAL
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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Acknowledgments

Dr. Anne-Marie Glenn (1954-1997) was a dedicated leader and a visionary in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby. She became involved in Wheelchair Rugby in 1990, assisting in the development and establishment of the sport-specific classification system, which is now used around the world. She gave unselfishly of her time, energy and heart to Wheelchair Rugby. This manual and the development of classification in this sport would not have been possible without the original contribution of Anne-Marie Glenn, MD and Diane Bulger-Tsapos, OT.

Contributions

The USQRA Classification Manual Task Force revised this fourth edition of the United States Quad Rugby Association (USQRA) Classification Manual: Phyllis Palma, Paul Sawicki, Cyndy Sobie Ellis, Michelle Lanouette, Christopher Newman, and Anne Hart. This edition of the manual was possible because of the many unselfish contributions and passionate dedication of classifiers throughout the United States. Also, we are grateful to the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) Athletes and Classifiers who continue to advance effective classification procedures around the world. Thank you all for your love of the sport.

Editors

Phyllis Palma and Anne Hart were the editors of the fourth edition of the USQRA Classification Manual.

Document History

The fourth edition of this document combines USQRA and the IWRF rules, which were accepted by the USQRA membership April 2013, effective date the 2013-2014 season. The USQRA manual was previously revised in 2010. This document brings together the policies and procedures specific to the USQRA with the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) classification rules and regulations.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction to Wheelchair Rugby	7
1.1 Description of the Game	7
1.2 History and Growth	7
2 Introduction to Classification	7
2.1 Types of Classification	7
2.2 Evolution of Classification	7
2.3 Definition and Purpose of Classification in Para Sports	8
2.4 Purpose of Classification in Wheelchair Rugby	8
2.5 Principles of Classification in Wheelchair Rugby	9
Part I – Athlete Classification	10
3 Athlete Evaluation	11
3.1 Eligible Impairments	11
3.2 Eligibility for Wheelchair Rugby	11
3.3 Eligibility Test	12
3.4 Athlete Evaluation Components	13
3.5 Assessment of Impairments in Motor Power	13
3.6 Modifications for Specific Muscles	16
3.7 Physical Assessment – Impairment Tests or Bench Test	18
3.8 Physical Assessment – Trunk Tests	21
3.9 Technical Assessment – Sport-specific tests and novel tests	22
3.10 Observation Assessment – Observations On-Court	23
3.11 Sport Class Math	25
3.12 Sport Class and Sport Class Status	25
4 Sport Class Not Eligible	27
4.1 General Provisions	27
4.2 Not Eligible - Absence of Eligible Impairment	27
4.3 Not Eligible - Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria	28
5 Hand Impairment and Sport-Specific Activities Profile	29
5.1 The 2.0 Hand	29
5.2 The 2.5 Hand	29
5.3 The 3.0 Hand	30
5.4 The 3.5 Hand	31
5.5 Comparison of the 3.0 and 3.5 Hand	31
6 Characteristics of Sport Classes	34
6.1 Sport Class 0.5	34
6.2 Sport Class 1.0	35
6.3 Sport Class 1.5	35
6.4 Sport Class 2.0	36
6.5 Sport Class 2.5	36
6.6 Sport Class 3.0	36
6.7 Sport Class 3.5	37
Part II – Athlete Classification Procedures	38
7 Classification Procedures	39
7.1 Athlete Classification Pathway	39
7.2 Athlete Presentation for Evaluation	39
7.3 Completion of Athlete Evaluation Agreement Forms	40
7.4 Classification Process Briefing	41
7.5 Athlete Evaluation Procedure	41

7.6 Entry Sports Class and Sports Class Status	42
7.7 Sport Class and Sport Class Status Allocation	43
7.8 Sport Class Allocation Timeline	47
7.9 USQRA Classification Cards	49
7.10 USQRA Classification Form Request	50
7.11 USQRA Sport Class Exceptions	50
7.12 International Athletes in the USQRA.....	53
8 Athlete Responsibilities.....	55
8.1 Athlete Participation in Classification	55
8.2 Athlete Failure to Attend Evaluation	55
8.3 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation.....	56
8.4 Intentional Misrepresentation	58
9 Protests.....	60
9.1 Definition and General Principles	60
9.3 Where No Protest Panel is Available	62
9.4 Special Provisions - Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances.....	62
9.5 Protest Procedures.....	63
9.6 Protest Panel.....	65
9.7 Protest Timeline	66
9.8 Protest Decision	67
9.9 Protest Decision Timeline.....	69
9.10 Protest Decision Notification.....	69
10 Appeals	71
10.1 Definition and Purpose	71
10.2 Procedure.....	71
11 Classification Personnel.....	72
11.1 Definition	72
11.2 Classifier	72
11.3 Classification Panel	73
11.4 Head of Classification.....	74
11.5 Sectional Head Classifier	75
11.6 Chief Classifier	76
11.7 Trainee	76
11.8 Player Classification Representative (PCR).....	77
11.9 Classifiers from other Nations.....	78
12 Entry Criteria for Classifier Training.....	78
12.1 Qualifications.....	78
12.2 Professional Experience.....	79
12.3 Sport Related Experience.....	79
13 Classifier Training	80
13.1 Entry Level	80
13.2 Advanced	80
14 Classifier Certification Process	81
14.1 General Principles	81
14.2 Level 1 Classifier	81
14.3 Level 2 Classifier	81
14.4 Level 3 Classifier	81
14.5 Level 4 Classifier	81
14.6 Classifier Competencies	82
14.7 Evaluation of Competency.....	83
14.8 Approval of Certification	84
14.9 Notification of Certification.....	84

14.10 Recertification and Retraining.....	85
15 Classifier Code of Conduct	86
15.1 General Principles	86
15.2 Roles and Responsibilities	86
15.3 Management of Conflict of Interest.....	86
15.4 Investigation of Potential Breach in Code of Conduct	86
15.5 Consequences of Breach in Code of Conduct.....	87
16 Classification Administration and Development.....	88
16.1 USQRA Classification Committee	88
16.2 Responsibilities of Committee Members.....	88
17 Tournament Classification Administration	93
17.1 Tournament Classification Panel Requirements	93
17.2 Post Season Tournaments	93
17.3 Invitational Tournaments	93
17.4 Classification Stipend	94
17.5 Pre-Competition Administration	94
17.6 Administration during Competition.....	97
17.7 Post Competition Administration.....	98
17.8 Classification Documents and Forms	99
18 Glossary.....	100
19 References.....	107
20 Appendices.....	108
A. Procedures used in Athlete Evaluation	109
A.1. Athlete Classification Pathway	110
A.2. Eligibility Test.....	112
A.3. Trunk Test Flow Chart.....	116
A.4. Description of Trunk Tests	117
A.5. Trunk Value Definitions and Observation	126
A.6. Major & Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.....	128
A.7. Characteristics of Sport Classes and Illustration	129
A.8. Eligible Impairment Types	133
A.9. Non-Eligible Impairment Types for All Athletes.....	134
A.10. Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for All Athletes	135
A.11. Procedure for Athletes Who are Not Eligible	136
B. Classification Forms	140
B.1. Athlete Classification Form.....	141
B.2. Major Minor Criteria Scoring Form	142
B.3. Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form	144
B.4. Protest Form	145
B.5. Medical Review Request Frequently Asked Questions and Form	148
B.6. Access to Athlete Classification Information Form.....	151
B.7. Tournament Classification Schedule	152
B.8. Tournament Classification Results	155
B.9. Temporary Paper Cards.....	156
B.10. Template for Receipts	157
C. Classification Guidelines	158
C.1. Guideline to Testing the Trunk	159
C.2. Guideline to Physical Assessment of Athletes with Limb Deficiency.....	160
C.3. Guideline to Classification Scheduling.....	163
C.4. Guideline to Completing Athlete Classification Form	164
C.5. Guideline to USQRA Classification Cards	166
C.6. Guideline to USQRA Classification Card Fees.....	169

C.7. Reference Guide to Tournament Classification	171
C.8. Classifier Guideline to Tournament Logistics.....	172
D. Forms for Classifiers	173
D.1. USQRA Classifier Application Form	174
D.2. USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct	175
D.3. Classifier Certification and Development Forms.....	176

1 Introduction to Wheelchair Rugby

1.1 Description of the Game

Wheelchair Rugby began as a sport for Athletes with Tetraplegia (Quadriplegia) and has grown into an intense, physical team sport for both male and female athletes with other Impairments that have an impact on sport performance. Wheelchair Rugby combines elements of rugby sevens, basketball, football and ice hockey and is played on a basketball court.

A Wheelchair Rugby team plays with four athletes on the court at one time. The athletes are allocated one of seven eligible Sport Classes ranging from 0.5 to 3.5; the higher number is intended for those athletes who have less Impairment and the lower numbers for those athletes with more Impairment. The Sport Class point total of the four athletes on court cannot exceed 8.0 (IWRF, 2006).

Comment Article 1.1: In the Paralympic version of Wheelchair Rugby, the point total on court is 8.0 or less with an exception for female athletes. The International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) includes a variation in the sport rules to allow more than 8.0 points when there are female athletes on court. The team may have an additional 0.5 points for each female athlete on court.

1.2 History and Growth

Originating in 1977 in Canada, the sport rapidly developed throughout the world and continues to be one of the fastest growing team sports in the Paralympic Movement. The first competitors, and still the majority of competitors, are athletes with Motor Power Impairment due to Spinal Cord Injury. Currently athletes with other types of Impairment are contributing to the growth of this exciting sport.

2 Introduction to Classification

2.1 Types of Classification

Classification has existed since the origin of sport. Perhaps the most familiar classification in sport is by sex - the development of separate events for men and women. There are two types of classification in sport: grouping by selective units such as age or weight, for example, in boxing, or grouping by performance, such as belt colors in judo or taekwondo, or by a handicap score in golf.

2.2 Evolution of Classification

Classification has been present in sport for persons with Impairment since the mid-1940s. Early Classification was based on Medical Diagnosis, such as spinal cord injury, amputation or another neuromuscular or musculoskeletal Health Condition. Over time, Classification Systems have evolved from Medical Classification to Functional Classification to Evidence Based Sport-Specific Classification. Sport Class is based not only on a verifiable and permanent Impairment due to an Underlying Health Condition, but also on the relevance of Impairment to activities fundamental to specific sport performance.

This evolution strives to ensure that Classification promotes sporting excellence by minimizing the impact of Impairment on the outcome of competition. For that reason, athletes who succeed are those with the best body dimensions, physiology, and psychology. By enhancing these elements through training and quality coaching, the strategies and skills of competing teams and athletes should be the factors determining success in competition and not the level of Impairment. (International Paralympic Committee, 2015; Tweedy, & Vanlandewijk, 2010; Tweedy, 2009; DePauw & Gavron, 2005).

2.3 Definition and Purpose of Classification in Para Sports

- 2.3.1 Classification provides a structure for competition and is carried out to ensure that Impairment is relevant to sport performance (IPC, 2007).
- 2.3.2 Classification is an on-going process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by Classifiers to ensure consistency and objectivity for all athletes.
- 2.3.3 The purpose of Classification is to achieve sporting excellence and promote participation in sport by minimizing the impact of Impairment on the outcome of competition.
- 2.3.4 Classification has two important goals:
 - 2.3.4.1 to determine Eligibility to compete, and
 - 2.3.4.2 to group athletes for competition.
- 2.3.5 Each International Sport Federation (IF) must decide which Eligible Impairments are included in their respective sports.
- 2.3.6 Athletes must have a verifiable and permanent Eligible Impairment resulting from an Underlying Health Condition that affects their ability to carry out the fundamental sport-specific activities of that sport (ICIDH-2, 2000; IPC Classification Code, 2007; IPC Athlete Classification Code, 2015).
- 2.3.7 Each National Federation (NF) is strongly encouraged to follow the Classification Rules set by the International Federation.

Comment Article 2.3: The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the global governing body of the Paralympic Games, offers sport opportunities for athletes who have an Impairment which belongs to one of only 10 'eligible' Impairments: impaired Muscle Power, impaired passive range of movement, Limb Deficiency, leg length difference, Short Stature, Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis, Vision impairment and Intellectual impairment. Each International Sport Federation must clearly define for which Impairments they provide sports opportunities. (IPC, 2015; IPC, 2014).

2.4 Purpose of Classification in Wheelchair Rugby

- 2.4.1 The purpose of Classification in Wheelchair Rugby is to achieve sporting excellence and promote participation in Wheelchair Rugby by minimizing the impact of Impairment on the outcome of competition.

2.4.2 Each athlete goes through Athlete Evaluation to:

2.4.2.1 determine Eligibility to compete in Wheelchair Rugby, and

2.4.2.2 be grouped into one of seven Sport Classes for competition.

Comment Article 2.4: To promote participation, the USQRA has adopted rules regarding Sport Class exceptions, allowing a 0.5 adjustment to Sport Class for female athletes, athletes age 45 or over, athletes over 65, and athletes under age 16. The adjustment of the Sport Class to a Competition Class is strictly a sport competition rule and not a Classification Rule. Refer to Article 7.11 USQRA Sport Class Exceptions.

2.5 Principles of Classification in Wheelchair Rugby

2.5.1 Athlete Classification in Wheelchair Rugby is composed of three distinct parts:

2.5.1.1 Impairment tests, also referred to as the Physical Assessment or Bench Test;

2.5.1.2 Sport-specific tests, including a range of practiced and novel sport-specific tests both with and without equipment, also referred to as the Technical Assessment; and

2.5.1.3 Observation assessment, which consists of a visual inspection of Sport-specific Activities on court during training and/or competition, also referred to as Observation On Court.

Comment 1 Article 2.5.1: In 2010, the IWRF Classification System was revised to include tests for Eligibility and Trunk Impairment. The measurement of the trunk was expanded to include Impairments in strength, range of motion and coordination; strength in specific lower extremity muscles that stabilize the pelvis; and limb measurements. The USQRA Effective Date for these rules was the 2013-2014 season.

Comment 2 Article 2.5.1: In 2014, the IWRF Classification System was revised to improve the sport-specific assessment of the hands. The previous battery of nine Hand Tests was reorganized to (1) complete the Impairment Tests, specifically moving strength tests into manual muscle testing in the physical assessment, (2) include only sport activity tests specific to wheelchair rugby, and (3) improve the description of sport-specific activities related to the hand, especially quality of movement and compensations relevant to wheelchair^[SEP] rugby. The maximum value for hand scoring was adjusted from 4.0 to 3.5 and the description of Eligibility was made clearer to ensure athletes with Paraplegia and no^[SEP] loss of hand strength remain Not Eligible for Wheelchair Rugby. An athlete with two 3.5 hand scores is not eligible for wheelchair rugby. The USQRA adopted the IWRF rule on hand assessment April 2017, effective date the 2017-2018 season.

2.5.2 Allocation of Sport Class is based on:

2.5.2.1 the extent of an Eligible Impairment associated with an Underlying Health Condition, such as impaired muscle strength associated with spinal cord injury or limb deficiency such as traumatic or congenital limb loss; and

2.5.2.2 the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities related to the sport.

2.5.3 Sport Class decisions are made independent of skill level, athletic training, and equipment. Fundamental activities in wheelchair rugby include wheelchair and ball activities.

PART I – ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION

This section of the USQRA Classification Manual details Athlete Evaluation including:

- a. Eligible Impairments
- b. Eligibility
- c. Physical Assessment - Impairment Tests or Bench Test
- d. Technical Assessment - Sport-specific Tests
- e. Observation Assessment – Observation On-Court
- f. Sport Class and Sport Class Status
- g. Sport Class Not Eligible
- h. Hand Impairment and Sport Activity Profiles
- i. Characteristics of Sport Classes

3 Athlete Evaluation

Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed according to the Classification Rules of Wheelchair Rugby. The USQRA Classification Rules require Athlete Evaluation by a panel of three USQRA certified classifiers.

3.1 Eligible Impairments

- 3.1.1 Wheelchair Rugby is a sport originally developed for athletes with strength impairment because of cervical spinal cord injury or Poliomyelitis.
- 3.1.2 There are now athletes participating with additional types of Eligible Impairments due to various Underlying Health Conditions such as:
 - 3.1.2.1 Impairments in motor power caused by other types of central and peripheral nervous system conditions such as muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis.
 - 3.1.2.2 Ataxia, Athetosis or Hypertonia, specific types of coordination impairment caused by Underlying Health Conditions such as cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury.
 - 3.1.2.3 Limb Deficiency, such as multiple acquired amputations, or congenital limb deficits and other similar acquired and congenital musculoskeletal Health Conditions.
 - 3.1.2.4 Athletes with other Health Conditions may be eligible to participate if these Underlying Health Conditions bring about an Eligible Impairment.

Comment Article 3.1: As of 2016-2017, the IWRF provides sporting opportunity to athletes with physical impairments including impaired Muscle Power, Limb Deficiency, impaired passive range of movement, and coordination impairments Ataxia, Athetosis, and Hypertonia. The IWRF does not include vision impairment or intellectual impairment as Eligible Impairments for Wheelchair Rugby. Hearing impairment is not an Eligible Impairment for Para Sports.

3.2 Eligibility for Wheelchair Rugby

- 3.2.1 Eligibility for Wheelchair Rugby is based on:
 - 3.2.1.1 the presence of a permanent and verifiable Eligible Impairment that results from an Underlying Health Condition; and
 - 3.2.1.2 the extent of the Eligible Impairment must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC).

3.2.2 To be eligible to participate in Wheelchair Rugby, the Athlete must:

3.2.2.1 have an Eligible Impairment,

3.2.2.2 meet the conditions in the Eligibility Test to proceed to Athlete Evaluation; and

3.2.2.3 meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) to be allocated one of the seven Sport Classes that range from 0.5 to 3.5.

3.2.3 An Athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Wheelchair Rugby if allocated a 4.0 Sport Class or above and accordingly is not eligible to compete in Wheelchair Rugby.

3.2.4 If an Athlete fails to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and is not eligible for competition in Wheelchair Rugby; this finding does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment.

3.2.4.1 Failing to meet Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) in Wheelchair Rugby is a ruling on the Eligibility of the Athlete to compete under the rules of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) and/or the United States Quad Rugby Association (USQRA) (IPC, 2007, 2015).

Comment Article 3.2.2.3: There are Sport Class exceptions in the USQRA rules, which permit adjustments in Sport Class referred to as a Competition Class. It is possible for Athlete to have a Competition Class of 0.0.

For specific Eligibility Procedures, refer to Appendices A.2 Eligibility Test, A.3 Trunk Test Flow Chart, and A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.

3.3 Eligibility Test

3.3.1 The Eligibility Test measures Impairment in:

3.3.1.1 Muscle strength in the trunk and in selected leg muscles that stabilize the pelvis, if appropriate;

3.3.1.2 arm and hand muscles; and

3.3.1.3 limb length, if limb deficiency.

3.3.2 The Eligibility Test sets apart those athletes who are appropriate for further Classification and those athletes whose type of impairment is not an Eligible Impairment, or the extent of the Eligible Impairment does not satisfy the first step in meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria required for wheelchair rugby.

3.3.3 If the Athlete does not pass the Eligibility test, Classification is terminated, and the Athlete receives the Sport Class not eligible (NE). (Refer to Appendix A.2)

3.3.4 If the Athlete passes the Eligibility Test, the Athlete moves forward in Athlete Evaluation. If the Athlete proceeds through Impairment Tests, sport-specific tests, and/or observation assessment, an outcome of not eligible (NE) is still possible.

3.3.5 Currently, there are no gold standard tests in any Classification System for measuring Hypertonia, Ataxia, and Athetosis. Athletes with these coordination impairments may

still be eligible to participate. However, since there are limited objective and reliable measures for measuring coordination impairments, the Sport Class decision for these athletes is primarily based on the sport-specific tests and observation assessment.

Comment Article 3.3: The Eligibility test will rule out athletes with Paraplegia. These athletes will not be eligible (NE) with Confirmed Sport Class Status (C); any further Athlete Evaluation is not permitted.

Refer to Appendix A.2 Eligibility Test for a graphic scheme of the Classification Process for Eligibility in Wheelchair Rugby.

Refer to Appendix A.3 Trunk Test Flow Chart for a graphic scheme of trunk testing, Appendix A.4 Description of Trunk Tests for explanations of the individual trunk tests, and Appendix A.5 Trunk Value Definitions and Observations.

Refer to Appendix A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring that are part of Sport specific Tests testing and Observation Assessment to confirm if the Athlete meets Minimum Impairment Criteria.

3.4 Athlete Evaluation Components

3.4.1 The Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment for Wheelchair Rugby.

3.4.2 Athletes must meet the Eligibility requirements in the Eligibility Test (Appendix A.2) to proceed with Athlete Evaluation.

3.4.3 All athletes who pass the Eligibility Test (Appendix A.2) continue on with the three parts of Athlete Evaluation:

3.4.3.1 Impairment Testing - Physical assessment, or Bench Test,

3.4.3.2 Sport-specific testing - Technical assessment, or sport activity tests, and

3.4.3.3 Observation assessment - observation of sport-specific tasks on-court during training and/or competition.

3.4.4 The Classification Panel may use video footage and/or photography for any or all parts of Athlete Evaluation.

Refer to Appendix A.1 Athlete Classification Pathway to see a diagram of the complete Athlete Classification Pathway.

3.5 Assessment of Impairments in Motor Power

3.5.1 Muscle Strength Testing Scale

3.5.1.1 Daniels and Worthingham developed the muscle testing techniques and scoring criteria used in Wheelchair Rugby. The reference text is Hislop HJ, Avers D, and Brown M. *Daniels and Worthingham Muscle Testing: Techniques of Manual Examination and Performance Testing*. 9th ed. St Louis, Mo: Elsevier, 2014

3.5.1.2 Grading is on a five-point ordinal scale.

3.5.1.3 Plus (+) and minus (-) grades may be utilized where the muscle strength falls between the defined numerical grades. However, grade 0 represents absence

of voluntary contraction and grade 1 represents minimal muscle contractile activity, so plus (+) and minus (-) grades is not recommended for use with grades 0 and 1.

3.5.1.4 The use of a plus (+) or minus (-) addition to a manual muscle test grade is discouraged except in these instances: Fair - (Grade 3-), Fair+ (Grade 3+), Poor+ (Grade 2+), and Poor- (Grade 2-).

3.5.1.5 The purpose of avoiding the use of plus or minus signs is to restrict the variability of manual muscle test grades to those that are meaningful and defensible.

a. However, use of minus (-) with Grade 4 is added in the modification for triceps test.

b. Experienced wheelchair rugby Classifiers may use plus (+) or minus (-) with Grade 4 for other tests to indicate the quality of a muscle contraction, though in consideration in hand scoring the 4- score is not significantly different from a 3+.

3.5.1.6 Some modifications in the testing positions may be made for sport specific testing as described in these rules.

Grade Description

- | | |
|----|---|
| 0 | Complete lack of voluntary muscle contraction. The examiner is unable to feel or see any muscle contraction. |
| 1 | Faint or “flicker” muscle contraction without any movement of the limb. The examiner can see or palpate some contractile activity of the muscle/s or may be able to see or feel the tendon “pop up” or tense as the Athlete tries to perform the contraction. |
| 2- | Gravity eliminated movement that is less than full range of motion. |
| 2 | Very weak muscle contraction with movement through complete range of motion in a position that eliminates or minimizes the force of gravity. This position is often described as the horizontal plane of motion. |
| 2+ | In gravity minimized position, completes full available range and holds end position against mild resistance; or against gravity, completes up to half of the full range of motion. |
| 3- | Against gravity, more than half but less than full range of motion. |
| 3 | Muscle can complete a full range of motion against only the resistance of gravity. |
| 3+ | Completes full range of motion against gravity, and holds end position against mild resistance. |
| 4 | Able to complete the full range of motion against gravity and can tolerate strong resistance without breaking the test position. The Grade 4 muscle clearly breaks with maximal resistance. |
| 5 | Able to complete full range of motion and maintain end point range position against maximal resistance. The examiner cannot break the Athlete’s hold position. |

Comment Article 3.5: Daniels and Worthingham muscle testing technique discourages the use of a plus (+) or minus (-) addition to a manual muscle test grade except for muscle grades: Fair - (Grade 3-), Fair+ (Grade 3+), Poor+ (Grade 2+), and Poor- (Grade 2-). The purpose of avoiding the use of plus or minus signs is to restrict the variability of manual muscle test grades to those that are meaningful and defensible, which excludes MMT grades of 4 and 5. However, use of minus (-) with Grade 4 is added in the modification for triceps test to take into account muscle endurance in wheelchair propulsion.

3.6 Modifications for Specific Muscles

3.6.1 Triceps Test

3.6.1.1 Because of the importance of sustaining triceps strength in sport-specific activities in Wheelchair Rugby such as wheelchair propulsion, a modification was made to the testing for the triceps muscle to add a component of muscle endurance.

3.6.1.2 The assignment of muscle grade for the triceps muscle is:

Grade	Description
3-	5-9 repetitions
3	10 repetitions
3+	10 repetitions then minimal resistance
4-	10 repetitions then moderate resistance
4	After 10 repetitions moderate resistance throughout active ROM

3.6.2 Latissimus Dorsi Testing Guidelines

3.6.2.1 The latissimus dorsi is a key muscle in determining the extent of Impairment in Muscle Power in athletes in low point Sport Classes. This muscle is essential for proximal stability, which is necessary for performing Sport specific activities expected by Athletes in low point Sport Classes (0.5, 1.0, and 1.5). Wheelchair propulsion and holding a pick are fundamental roles for Athletes in low point Sport Classes.

3.6.2.2 The typical manual muscle test position used in wheelchair rugby is a modification in which the Athlete is tested sitting in the rugby chair and leaning forward onto the lap to achieve an anti-gravity position.

3.6.2.3 Any hip or trunk belts and/or strapping should be loosened and the Athlete asked to rest his/her chest on the lap in the testing position.

3.6.2.4 Once in the testing position, the Athlete is asked to perform the movement first, observe the teres major muscle and if very prominent, this is an indication of hypertrophy of the teres to compensate for latissimus weakness.

3.6.2.5 Be attentive to an Athlete's training history. Those who are well trained often have teres major hypertrophy and may be able to extend and adduct the arm more than would be expected if latissimus dorsi weakness were present. Two key observations to confirm use of teres major to compensate for absence or weakness of the latissimus dorsi:

- actively bringing the arm into the full extension, adduction, and internal rotation position will not be possible; or
- if passively placed in the test position, actively holding the arm in the extended, adducted and internally rotated position will be difficult to sustain against gravity.

- 3.6.2.6 If the triceps are graded good to normal strength (4-5), the Classifier can shift his/her resistance to push down on the wrist and consequently increase leverage.
- a. If the arm stays in position with resistance applied in this longer lever posture and the trunk moves forward or collapses, the MMT should be grade 5.
 - b. If the arm “gives” or “breaks” allowing the Classifier to push the arm away from body, the MMT should be grade 4.
- 3.6.2.7 If the Athlete has weak or no triceps (for example, 0-2 MMT grades), resistance will need to be at or above the elbow so that the Classifier is testing the shoulder and not triceps.
- 3.6.2.8 If the Classifier is not confident of the distinction between grades 2 and 3, the Athlete may be asked to do a pressure lift:
- a. if the pressure lift clearing the buttocks is possible the muscle grade for latissimus is at least a grade 3.
 - b. Observe the quality of the movement, palpate for latissimus contraction and watch for substitution from teres to determine the final score.
- 3.6.2.9 The Classifier should be mindful of hand placement for palpation of the Latissimus dorsi; these muscles are more anterior than presumed.
- 3.6.3 Other Test Position Modifications
- 3.6.3.1 In some Athletes, the upright sitting position is not optimal for muscle testing all the muscle groups. An alternative testing position in reclined sitting may be used where the Athlete is tipped back in the rugby chair to rest in supine on his/her back on a floor mat, while staying strapped into the rugby chair.
- 3.6.3.2 For some Athletes, the upright sitting position may not be optimum for muscle testing shoulder and chest muscles including but not limited to:
- a. Sternal Pectorals
 - b. Serratus Anterior
 - c. Shoulder Rotators
- 3.6.3.3 This reclined position on a floor mat may also be useful for testing other arm muscles when the upright sitting position causes discomfort or limited passive of range of motion interferes with optimal testing. For example:
- a. Testing triceps in reclined sitting may be used if the Athlete is unable to achieve the proper test position overhead in upright sitting due to impaired passive range of motion and/or pain.
 - b. Testing shoulder rotator muscles may be used in reclined sitting if the Athlete is unable to achieve the proper testing position in upright sitting due to shoulder pain.

Comment Article 3.6: If any of these or other test position modifications not described in the manual are necessary, the Classifiers should document the testing position used and the rationale for the modification on the Classification form to further reliability in subsequent Athlete Evaluations.

3.7 Physical Assessment – Impairment Tests or Bench Test

The Physical Assessment, also known as the Bench Test or Impairment Test, includes an interview with the Athlete to determine if there is an Eligible Impairment, the Eligibility Test to determine if the Athlete moves forward with Classification, and the impairment tests consisting of trunk tests, manual muscle tests, and Limb measurements (if appropriate).

3.7.1 Interview

- 3.7.1.1 The members of the Classification Panel introduce themselves to the Athlete. A Classifier asks the Athlete about Diagnosis (underlying health condition) and medical history, sensation, spasticity, contractures, medications, and previous operations to determine how these elements may influence the impact of impairment on performance of sport-specific activities.
- 3.7.1.2 Any Diagnostic Information the Athlete brings or has been requested to bring should be presented to the Chief Classifier or the Classification Panel prior to or at the time of the interview.
- 3.7.1.3 Classifiers may ask about training history, equipment and rugby chair set-up, seating, gloves and binding/strapping. The Classifiers may inspect the equipment and set up during the interview or at any time during the Athlete Evaluation process. This information assists the Classifiers in determining how these components may affect performance of sport-specific tasks.
- 3.7.1.4 The Chief Classifier or his/her designee may conduct the interview before the Athlete and Classification Panel start the Bench Test, if there are sufficient Classification personnel.

3.7.2 Eligibility Test for Classification

- 3.7.2.1 The Eligibility Test consists of several components from the Bench Test to determine if the Athlete meets the criteria to proceed further in Athlete Evaluation or is made Not Eligible (NE) and Athlete Evaluation is discontinued.
- 3.7.2.2 This test includes trunk tests (1-5), measurement of limb segment lengths (if limb deficiency), manual muscle tests of the upper extremities, and manual muscle tests of hip abduction, flexion, and extension.
- 3.7.2.3 If the Athlete passes this step, the Athlete moves forward in Athlete Evaluation. A decision of Not Eligible is still possible following the Technical and Observation Assessment.

3.7.3 Manual Muscle Tests (MMTs)

- 3.7.3.1 Resistive tests are performed on select muscles in the arms, trunk and legs. These manual muscle tests may be performed in and/or out of the athlete's rugby chair.
- 3.7.3.2 Athletes may be requested to remove uniform tops if necessary to observe and evaluate muscle function and movements during the evaluation.
- 3.7.3.3 Female athletes should wear appropriate underclothing to permit removal of their uniform shirt.
- 3.7.3.4 The Athlete may also be asked to transfer to other surfaces for testing, such as a treatment table, floor mat or chair.

Comment Article 3.7.3: Manual muscle testing provides little useful information for some Eligible Impairments; for example, muscle strength is not always impaired in athletes with coordination impairments that may occur with an Underlying Health Condition such as cerebral palsy. For athletes with coordination impairments, all muscle groups may not be evaluated. However, coordination impairments such as Hypertonia, Athetosis or Ataxia lead to Activity Limitation impacting sport performance. Sport-specific tests in the technical assessment and observation assessment are more useful in the final determination of Sport Class.

3.7.4 Upper Extremity Proximal Weakness and Preservation of Distal Strength

The calculation of upper extremity point value for athletes with conditions that result in proximal weakness with preservation of distal strength is determined in a specific manner:

- 3.7.4.1 Draw a line on the Classification form to divide the muscle test scores on the bench test above the triceps;
- 3.7.4.2 Give a point value for the upper arm and the lower arm separately; and
- 3.7.4.3 Add the scores and divide by two for the point value for that arm.

Comment Article 3.7.4: This division IS ONLY TO BE USED WHERE THERE IS PROXIMAL WEAKNESS AND DISTAL STRENGTH due to neuromuscular health conditions such as poliomyelitis and some forms of muscular dystrophy where there is dystrophic-denervation of muscle. This division MUST NOT be used for all neuromuscular health conditions, particularly in those that present with proximal strength and distal weakness, such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), and other forms of hereditary sensory motor peripheral neuropathy.

3.7.5 Manual Muscle Test Scores and Upper Extremity Point Values

0.5 Point Deltoid Latissimus Clavicular Pectoralis Sternal Pectoralis Biceps Triceps Wrist extensors Wrist flexors Remaining hand muscles	0-5 0-1 0-5 0-1 0-5 0-1 0-5 0-1 0	1.0 Point Latissimus Clavicular Pectoralis Sternal Pectoralis Biceps Triceps Wrist extensors Wrist flexors Remaining hand muscles	0-3 5 0-3 5 0-3 0-5 0-3 0-1
<i>Characteristics of 0.5</i> are triceps 0-1 and shoulder girdle weakness, sternal pectoralis and latissimus weakness; possible weak shoulder rotators, with limited range; and possible clavicular pectoralis weakness.		<i>Characteristics of 1.0</i> are normal strength of deltoid muscles and clavicular pectoralis fibers with overall stronger proximal muscles than 0.5. Still has proximal weakness throughout shoulder girdle. BOTH sternal pectoralis AND latissimus should be 3 or less. May have 0 triceps if with stronger proximal muscles.	
1.5 Point Latissimus Sternal Pectoralis Triceps Wrist extensors Wrist flexors	0-3 0-3 3+ to 4- 4-5 0-3	<i>Characteristics of 1.5</i> are remaining weakness of proximal muscles such as serratus anterior, latissimus or sternal pectoralis, in combination with stronger triceps and wrist muscles compared to 1.0. EITHER sternal pectoralis OR latissimus should be 3 or less. If there is no proximal weakness but triceps are 3+ to 4-, beware of non-neurologic weakness.	
2.0 Point Shoulder girdle muscles Latissimus Biceps Triceps Wrist extensors Wrist flexors Finger flexors and extensors Thumb movements Finger adductors and abductors	5 4-5 5 4-5 4-5 4-5 0-2 0-2 0	2.5 Point Shoulder girdle muscles Biceps Triceps Wrist extensors and flexors Finger flexors and extensors Finger adductors and abductors Thumb extensors and flexors Thumb opponens, adductors and abductors Finger flexion in MCP joints	5 5 5 4-5 3-4 0-2 3-5 0-2 0-2
<i>Characteristics of 2.0</i> are normal strength in the shoulders and chest, good to normal triceps, and strong balanced wrist extension and flexion strength.		<i>Characteristics of 2.5</i> are limited hand action with a curling and uncurling of the hand and not functional grasp and release. The curling and uncurling motion results from action of the finger flexor muscles without the stabilizing effect of the intrinsic muscles.	
3.0 Point Shoulder girdle muscles Biceps Triceps Wrist extensors and flexors Finger flexors and extensors Finger adductors and abductors Thumb flexors, extensors Thumb adductors, abductors, opponens Finger flexion in MCP joints	5 5 5 4-5 3-5 0-4 3-5 0-4 0-4	<i>Characteristics of 3.0</i> are functional grasp and release (opening and closing) but grip strength is impaired because of less than normal strength in intrinsic and/or thumb abduction and opposition. Atrophy is present in the hands at the thenar and hypothenar eminences. Also, interossei (finger adductors and abductors) and lumbrical muscle (finger flexion in MCP joint) weakness causes decreased maintenance of the hand arches and indicates significant hand weakness and muscle strength of less than 4–5. A value of 3 or more for interossei and/or thumb opposition and/or abduction usually excludes a hand from 2.5 and indicates a 3.0 hand.	
3.5 Point Muscle tests of bilateral hands and arms with uniform strength of 4-5 in ALL muscle groups usually indicates Not Eligible in Athletes with Motor Power Impairment. (Refer to Eligibility Test Appendix A.2). A Classifier should determine arm value on muscle tests and consider sport-specific Activity Limitation of the entire extremity. Skill level, equipment, athletic ability or training effects should NOT be considered in the allocation of Sport Class.			

3.8 Physical Assessment – Trunk Tests

- 3.8.1 Because the trunk tests are part of the Eligibility test, these tests may be performed as the first step in the physical assessment.
- 3.8.2 The trunk tests assess abdominal, back, pelvic and leg muscles in all planes and in a variety of positions.
- 3.8.3 The ability to move or to stabilize the trunk assists an Athlete in many of the sport-specific activities in wheelchair rugby. Trunk muscle strength may enable an Athlete to perform many of the fundamental activities in wheelchair rugby at a higher level than the Athlete without use of the trunk muscles. As a result, the Athlete with trunk muscle strength has an advantage on court over the Athlete who has no trunk muscle strength.
- 3.8.4 Three areas of Impairment that affect performance in wheelchair propulsion and throwing are assessed:
 - 3.8.4.1 Trunk muscle strength;
 - 3.8.4.2 Leg and hip muscle strength; and
 - 3.8.4.3 Leg length (if appropriate).
- 3.8.5 If an Athlete has Impairment in leg length when there is no Impairment in trunk muscle strength, the leg length is significant for enabling the use of the trunk in sport-specific activities, for example, the greater the Impairment in leg length, the more Activity Limitation in sport performance.
- 3.8.6 Muscle strength in the legs; particularly the hip abductor, hip flexor, and hip extensor muscles, stabilizes the pelvis and improves contact with and control of the wheelchair to enhance the use of trunk in sport-specific activities.
- 3.8.7 There are eight tests for assessment of the trunk, leg length and key leg and hip muscles to verify the severity of Impairment and related Activity Limitation in wheelchair and ball activities.
- 3.8.8 There are four possible trunk values (0, 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5) in the trunk test math formula. The trunk impairment score is a component of allocating Sport Class.
- 3.8.9 Testing, observation and palpation of trunk muscles may occur in and/or out of the rugby chair, and with and/or without binding/straps.

Refer to Appendix A.3 Trunk Test Flow Chart, Appendix A.4 Description of Trunk Tests, Appendix A.5 Trunk Value Definitions and Observation, and Appendix C.1 Guideline to Testing the Trunk.

3.9 Technical Assessment – Sport-specific tests and novel tests

- 3.9.1 The extent of Activity Limitation and impact on sport performance is determined by the technical assessment of sport-specific activities that simulate wheelchair and ball activities and by novel non-sport tasks.
- 3.9.2 The novel tasks help to rule out the effect of training on performance.
- 3.9.3 In the technical assessment, the Classifier evaluates many sport-specific activities and novel tasks in a non-competition environment.
- 3.9.4 The classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete to observe how the Athlete performs the tasks or activities under simulated sport conditions.
- 3.9.5 The Classifier may request the Athlete demonstrate many different ball handling and wheelchair activities under a variety of conditions, for example, in or out of the rugby chair; and/or with and without equipment such as gloves/straps/tape.
- 3.9.6 The classifiers must be confident the Athlete has performed the specific tasks and activities to the best of his/her ability during the technical assessment, and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation opportunities.
- 3.9.7 If the classifiers are not confident the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her ability during the technical assessment, the Athlete Evaluation will be suspended in accordance with Articles 8.3 and 8.4 of these rules.
- 3.9.8 Fundamental wheelchair and ball activities include but are not limited to:
 - 3.9.8.1 Pushing forward and backward,
 - 3.9.8.2 Turning (for example, pushing and turning in a “figure of 8” pattern),
 - 3.9.8.3 Stopping and starting,
 - 3.9.8.4 Changing direction,
 - 3.9.8.5 Holding rugby chair against resistance (for example, picks and/or blocks),
 - 3.9.8.6 Wheelies,
 - 3.9.8.7 Transfers (for example, to and from the playing chair, to and from a standard type chair or to and from a mat table),
 - 3.9.8.8 Passing (for example, two-hand chest pass, one-hand flip pass, overhead or “pop-up” pass),
 - 3.9.8.9 Dribbling,
 - 3.9.8.10 Retrieving the ball from the floor,
 - 3.9.8.11 Catching, and
 - 3.9.8.12 Ball security (such as holding the ball in both hands in front of the chair or while the chair is disturbed, or quickly moved).

- 3.9.9 The Classifier evaluates **how** the Athlete performs the activity, not **how well** the Athlete performs the activity. The Athlete may be requested to perform any additional non-sport and sport-specific activities as needed to determine Sport Class. Refer to Appendix A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.
- 3.9.10 Assigning a Sport Class depends in part on examining the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activity. This assessment should be based on the severity of the athlete's Impairment and the impact on performing fundamental sport activities in Wheelchair Rugby, and not on equipment, training, athletic ability or skill.
- 3.9.11 Sport-specific activities are observed in the technical assessment both with and without equipment to look at how the Athlete does the activity and to take into account the influence of equipment on wheelchair and ball handling.
- 3.9.12 Major and minor criteria have been developed to assess the impact of Impairment during Sport-specific Tests as well as the Observation Assessment, particularly in cases of borderline eligibility. Refer to Appendix A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.
- 3.9.13 An Athlete may be ruled Not Eligible following the Sport specific Tests, which are based on the level of Impairment measured in the Bench Test and its impact on the Sport specific activities determined by the presence of a specific number of these criteria in accordance with these rules. Refer to Appendix A.2 Eligibility Test and Appendix A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.

3.10 Observation Assessment – Observations On-Court

- 3.10.1 The Sport-specific activities performed in the Sport specific Assessment may also be watched during the observation assessment on court to confirm the athlete's Sport Class.
- 3.10.2 Observation assessments consist of watching ball handling and wheelchair activities during warm-up, training and/or practice, and/or during competition, when the Athlete is in a more challenged situation than in the controlled environment of the Classification area.
- 3.10.3 Observation assessment helps the Classifier appreciate the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activities when in a challenged situation.
- 3.10.4 Observation Activities
- 3.10.4.1 The Sport specific activities are observed in a variety of situations, including non-challenge and challenge conditions during warm-up, training, practice and in game competition.
- 3.10.4.2 Major and minor criteria are used to assess the impact of Impairment on Sport specific activities during Observation Assessment. Following the Observation On-Court, an Athlete may be ruled Not Eligible based on the presence of a

specific number of these criteria in accordance with Appendix A.2 Eligibility Test and Appendix A.6 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring.

3.10.5 Specific areas where activities are observed include but are not limited to:

3.10.5.1 In the open court,

3.10.5.2 In the key,

3.10.5.3 During time-outs while the Athlete is working with equipment such as tape, gloves, water bottles, tools, straps and binders, and

3.10.5.4 Transferring to and from the rugby wheelchair, before and after play.

3.10.6 Ball handling and wheelchair activities that are observed include but are not limited to:

3.10.6.1 Ball control/stability & ball protection/security

a. Catching

b. Passing

3.10.6.2 Holding and palming the ball

a. Observe shape of hand when palming the ball

b. Look for use of intrinsic muscles when holding/palming the ball

3.10.6.3 Passing – types and performance

a. Set up technique and time needed

b. Bounce pass

c. Overhead pass—two-hands, one-hand (using dominant and non-dominant hands)

d. Chest pass

e. Pop-up pass

f. Performance- in challenge and non-challenge situations

g. Speed

h. Force

i. Distance

j. Control, accuracy

3.10.6.4 Dribbling the ball

- a. Dribbling out to the sides and in front of the chair and/or dribbling with body away from the back of the chair
- b. Dribbling around cone of wheelchair

3.10.6.5 Catching

- a. Forearm catch
- b. Side catch
- c. Overhead catch with one or both arms

3.10.6.6 Grasp and release of the push rim

- a. During turns
- b. While starting and stopping, including quick starts and stops
- c. Observe Athlete on defense and how Athlete performs defensive moves in the key
- d. Position of the hand on the rim, especially, use of the thumb
- e. Pushing against resistance

Comment Article 3.10.6: This list of ball handling and wheelchair activities is not a complete listing of all activities that Classifiers may observe. Research conducted by IWRF athletes and classifiers to determine a definitive list of activities is underway.

Comment Article 3.10: Classifiers use their skills in observation of neuromuscular substitution patterns and compensatory movements to differentiate between severity of Impairment and associated Activity Limitation, equipment, training, athletic ability, and skill. Classifiers may also compare characteristics of the Sport Classes in which an Athlete may fit to determine which is the most appropriate Sport Class. Observations of sport-specific and non-sport activities during testing and observations on court during training and/or competition take a skilled and trained eye. Observation of movement, compensation and substitution are part of the professional education for those individuals who meet the criteria to become Classifiers. Application of these professional observation skills to Wheelchair Rugby is part of the training and certification of USQRA Classifiers.

3.11 Sport Class Math

- 3.11.1 Following the bench test, a numerical value is calculated to allocate a Sport Class for entering competition, for most athletes.
- 3.11.2 Adding up the value for both arms, dividing by two, and adding the trunk value is an estimate of the athlete's Entry Sport Class.

3.12 Sport Class and Sport Class Status

3.12.1 Sport Class

- 3.12.1.1 Sport Class is a numerical category in which an Athlete is grouped by reference to Impairment and related Sport-specific Activity Limitation.

3.12.1.2 Sport Classes are:

- a. 0.5
- b. 1.0
- c. 1.5
- d. 2.0
- e. 2.5
- f. 3.0
- g. 3.5

3.12.1.3 A total of 4.0 or more = Not Eligible (NE)

Comment Article 3.12.1.2: There are only seven eligible Sport Classes in Wheelchair Rugby (not including a Competition class of 0). If an Athlete passes the Eligibility Test and following the Bench Test, the Athlete is allocated a total score for the arms and trunk of 4.0 or more, this Athlete is Not Eligible and will be allocated the Sport Class NE.

3.12.2 Sport Class Status

3.12.2.1 Sport Class Status is allocated to each Athlete to indicate further evaluation requirements and protest opportunities:

- a. New (N)
- b. Review (R)
- c. Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD)
- d. Confirmed (C)
- e. Temporary (T)

Comment Article 3.13.2.1c: The term Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) is used to describe the two Classification rechecks done at three-year intervals.

Comment Article 3.13.2.1d: In compliance with the 2015 IPC Classification Code, Permanent (P) Status has been changed to Confirmed (C) Status. USQRA Classification forms and cards will be revised over time and changed from Permanent (P) Status to Confirmed (C) Status.

4 Sport Class Not Eligible

4.1 General Provisions

4.1.1 If the USQRA determines that an Athlete:

4.1.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or [L]
[SEP]

4.1.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition, [L]
[SEP]

4.1.2 the USQRA will allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

4.1.3 If a Classification Panel determines an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment but it does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Wheelchair Rugby, that Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

Comment Article 4.1.3: For example, if an Athlete does not pass the Eligibility Test or if an Athlete passes the Eligibility Test and following the Physical Assessment, the Athlete is allocated a total score for the arms and trunk of 4.0 or more, this Athlete is Not Eligible and will be allocated the Sport Class NE.

4.2 Not Eligible - Absence of Eligible Impairment

4.2.1 If the USQRA Head of Classification, Chief Classifier, or Classification Panel is unable to determine if the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the USQRA may suspend Athlete Evaluation at any time, including prior to or immediately following the Athlete interview.

4.2.1.1 If an Athlete has an unusual underlying health condition and the USQRA is unable to determine if this health condition leads to an eligible impairment, or the Athlete is unable to verify his/her health condition, the Chief Classifier and/or Classification Panel may suspend Athlete Evaluation.

4.2.1.2 The USQRA will require further medical documentation to make a decision on whether or not there is an Eligible Impairment, and will not resume or reschedule Athlete Evaluation until such documentation is reviewed and accepted by the USQRA Head of Classification.

4.2.2 If a USQRA Head of Classification, Chief Classifier or Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete should:

4.2.2.1 not be permitted to continue in an Evaluation Session; and [L]
[SEP]

4.2.2.2 be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport [L]
[SEP] Class Status Confirmed (C) by the USQRA.

4.2.3 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a USQRA Classification Panel because that Athlete has:

4.2.3.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or [L]
[SEP]

4.2.3.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition; [L]
[SEP]

- 4.2.3.3 has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in USQRA Wheelchair Rugby.

Comment Article 4.2: For example, non-eligible impairments for the USQRA and IWRF include vision impairment, intellectual impairment, leg length difference, hearing impairment, pain, low muscle tone, hypermobility of joints, impairment of cardiovascular and/or respiratory functions among others. Refer to the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the International Standard for Eligible Impairments at <https://www.paralympic.org/classification>.

4.3 Not Eligible - Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 4.3.1 The determination of Not Eligible for not meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) could take place as a result of the Eligibility Test, the Physical Assessment, Technical Assessment, or Observation Assessment.
- 4.3.2 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC). This second Evaluation Session must take place as soon as is feasible, according to the procedure in Article 4 of these Classification Rules.
- 4.3.2.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before this re-assessment. [SEP]
- 4.3.2.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with MIC (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C). [SEP]
- 4.3.2.3 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session to review the decision Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel as soon as is logistically possible. [SEP]
- 4.3.2.4 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the USQRA, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 4.3.2.5 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in USQRA Wheelchair Rugby. [SEP]

5 Hand Impairment and Sport-Specific Activities Profile

The extent of impaired motor power in the hand is based on muscle testing results. Single muscle test values are not the only important factor. The combination of muscle values is important in the final determination of the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activities involving the hand.

5.1 The 2.0 Hand

5.1.1 MUSCLE STRENGTH

Wrist flexors	4-5
Wrist extensors	4-5
Finger flexors and extensors	0-2
Intrinsics	0
Thumb muscles	0-2

5.1.2 OBSERVATION

The characteristic 2.0 hand has strong and balanced wrist extension and flexion, extreme intrinsic muscle wasting, including thenar and hypothenar eminences, and no maintenance of the hand arches. If there is any visible or palpable finger muscle contraction, strength is poor and any grasp and release action is obtained with tenodesis at the wrist.

5.1.3 SPORT-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

- Because of lack of isolated finger flexion, there is limited ball security for passing against challenge by the defense.
- Can hold the ball firmly with wrists, but does not have useful finger activity.
- Typically, weak one-hand overhead pass with limited control and distance. Rarely see one-hand overhead passing on court during competition, unless for inbounding, but may be able to perform a one-hand pass as part of sport-specific tests during Classification.

5.2 The 2.5 Hand

5.2.1 MUSCLE STRENGTH

Wrist flexors and extensors	4-5
Finger flexors and extensors	3-4
Finger add and abductors (interossei)	0-2
Thumb opponens, abductors, adductors	0-2
Thumb extensors and flexors	3-5
Finger flexion in MCP joints (lumbricals)	0-2

5.2.2 OBSERVATION

The 2.5 hand displays marked intrinsic wasting, including thenar and hypothenar eminences; and little or no maintenance of the hand arches.

In the Athlete with a 2.5 hand, finger flexion is predominately due to the action of Flexor Digitorum Superficialis (FDS), at the proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joints of the fingers and Flexor Digitorum Profundus (FDP) at the distal interphalangeal (DIP) joints of the fingers without the stabilizing influence of functional intrinsics. This lack of intrinsic muscle stabilization results in 'curling' and 'uncurling' of the fingers, rather than true functional grasp and release seen in the Athlete with a 3.0 hand.

5.2.3 SPORT-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

- a. Reasonably balanced finger flexion and extension ('curling' and 'uncurling') without true grasp and release because of the absence of stabilization from the intrinsic muscles of the hand.
- b. Utilizes extended wrist position (tenodesis) to strengthen grip and uses flexed wrist position to release grip, but may be able to perform some grip and release maneuvers (curling and uncurling) independent of wrist position.
- c. Hook grip that is used to advantage on the push rim when challenged, often more ulnar grip.
- d. Dribbles the ball safely, but will supinate forearm to scoop the ball onto the lap.
- e. Capable of performing one-hand overhead pass, but with limited accuracy and distance, uses both hands to set up and increased time to set up. May use the one-hand pass on-court in situations other than inbounding.
- f. Safe two-handed catching of passes, usually followed by scooping ball to lap. May catch passes with one hand and scoop to lap or to chest.
- g. Improved ball security compared to Athlete with 2.0 hand function due to improved ability to isolate wrist/fingers.
- h. May have overhead game present, though limited due to lack of balance in finger and thumb muscles for ball control.

5.3 The 3.0 Hand

5.3.1 MUSCLE STRENGTH

Wrist flexors and extensors	4-5
Finger flexors and extensors	3-5
Finger adductors and abductors	0-4
Thumb flexors and extensors,	3-5
Thumb adductors, abductors, opponens	0-4
Finger flexion in the MCP joints (lumbricals)	0-4

The 3.0 hand should have either weakness in the interossei and/or lumbricals or weakness in thumb opposition, adduction and abduction. In general, finger flexion and extension is usually stronger than a 2.5 hand. A value of 3/5 or more for interossei and/or thumb opposition, and/or thumb abduction usually excludes a hand from 2.5 and indicates a 3.0 hand.

5.3.2 OBSERVATION

- a. Some wasting/atrophy in intrinsics and/or thenar/hypothenar eminences.
- b. Hand arches show limited maintenance.

A 3.0 hand has a strong, balanced wrist, which means equal or near equal strength in both wrist flexion and extension, with visible atrophy in interossei, and intrinsic muscles in the thenar and/or hypothenar eminences of the hand. This atrophy is often visible as a “flattening” of the thenar and/or hypothenar eminences rather than the more extreme wasting seen in 2.0 or 2.5 hands. As a result of the Impairment in Muscle Power in the intrinsics of the hand, there is little or no maintenance of hand arches.

5.3.3 SPORT-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

- a. Has functional grasp and release of hand independent of wrist position.
- b. Because of improved activity in finger muscles, can control ball in varying planes of movement for passing, dribbling, catching and protecting ball during these activities.
- c. Can dribble and pass ball well with one hand.
- d. Multiple dribble one hand with control.
- e. Can stabilize with one arm to allow greater reach with the opposite arm, even if the Athlete has no trunk function.

Comment Article 5.3: It is important to remember single muscle tests grades are not the only factor in making a decision on the hand score. The combination of muscle grades is important in the final determination of hand score. For example, a hand with 5/5 for finger flexors and extensors, 4/5 for finger abductors and adductors (interossei), 4/5 for metacarpophalangeal joint (MCP) flexion in combination with proximal (PIP) and distal interphalangeal joint (DIP extension) (lumbricals), and 4/5 for all thumb muscles is most likely to be a 3.5 hand.

5.4 The 3.5 Hand

The athlete with a 3.5 hand value displays normal to near normal strength in the hand without any neurological weakness. Hand MMT grades in the 4-5 range (including 4-, 4, 4+ and 5) are considered near normal and normal strength. For example, athletes with Paraplegia have overall grades in the upper extremities of 4 -5, which includes two 3.5 hands. They are not eligible because they do not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Motor Power Impairment.

Also, an Athlete with two 3.5 hand scores has no significant impairment in the hands and consequently will have few to no activity limitations in wheelchair and ball activities.

Comment to Article 5.4: The maximum value for hand scoring was adjusted from 4.0 to 3.5 and the description of Eligibility was made clearer to ensure athletes with Paraplegia and normal to near normal hand strength remain Not Eligible for Wheelchair Rugby. An athlete with two 3.5 hand scores is not eligible for wheelchair rugby.

5.5 Comparison of the 3.0 and 3.5 Hand

The Athlete with 3.0 hand value still displays impaired muscle strength in the muscles that originate and insert in the hand.

The Athlete with 3.5 hand value has normal to near normal strength in the hands without any neurological weakness, and has the ability to perform tasks in a way that is consistent with few to no Activity Limitations in wheelchair and ball activities in Wheelchair Rugby.

It is important to differentiate between an Athlete with minimally impaired strength and associated Activity Limitation, regarded as a 3.0 hand, and an Athlete with normal to near normal hand strength and associated activity that is not limited, regarded as a 3.5 hand. It is important to look at all Sport-specific activities, and the combination of muscle actions when comparing the 3.0 and 3.5 hand.

Comment to Article 5.5: The characteristics in this article are described to assist a Classifier in training to understand what is minimally impaired strength and associated Activity Limitation and are not inclusive of all possible characteristics. April 2017, the USQRA membership adopted the 3.5 hand value as the maximum value for the hands, in compliance with the IWRF Classification Rules, effective date 2017-2018 USQRA season.

5.5.1 Observation

5.5.1.1 The 3.0 point hand:

- a. Balance between wrist flexor and extensor muscles, at least grade 4/5
- b. Some visible wasting/atrophy of the intrinsic muscles and/or muscles in thenar/hypothenar eminences
- c. Hand arches are partly but not fully maintained
- d. Muscle tone and/or sensory changes usually present, depending on underlying Health Condition
- e. Functional grasp and release independent of wrist position

5.5.1.2 The 3.5 point hand

- a. Balance between flexor and extensor muscles in wrist and hand is greater than or equal to 4/5 strength, including balance in the lumbricals at the MCP joint
- b. Balanced and coordinated movements of the hand
- c. Thumb opposition, adduction and abduction, and finger adduction and abduction are pure movements without substitution
- d. Consistent ball control in all planes of movement using fingers of this hand in challenged situation
- e. Passes securely and consistently in all directions with the 3.5 hand

5.5.2 Ball Handling Activities

5.5.2.1 Palming the ball

- a. 3.0 Unable to perform in a challenged situation
- b. 3.5 Can palm and control the ball above the head; and maintains stability of the ball in a challenged situation

Comment Article 5.4.1: The design of wheelchair rugby chairs has changed over time. At present, the push rims are designed closely to the wheel in a way that accommodates for the absence of or weakness in finger and thumb strength. Consequently, sport specific activities to observe and assist in making a distinction between a 3.0 and 3.5 hand no longer include wheelchair activities.

Comment Article 5.4.2: Palming the ball: Classifiers should take caution and be very observant for body anthropometrics, equipment and skill. The ability to palm the ball may depend on the size of the athlete's hand and/or the use of equipment to stick to the ball. An Athlete with sufficient hand muscle strength or compensatory movements but small hand size may not always be able to palm the ball, especially without the use of equipment. However, an Athlete without hand strength but with large hands and/or the right equipment can stick to the ball with one hand. It is important to evaluate this task with and without gloves and equipment. It is also important to know the athlete's training history, as participation in other ball sports may carry over to wheelchair rugby as an effect of training.

5.5.2.2 Dribbling retrieval

- a. 3.0 Uses strong wrist and finger flexion and extension to compensate for lack of intrinsic muscles and a weak thumb; supinates the ball into the lap because of poor grip
- b. 3.5 Controls the ball in all planes with no substitution patterns

5.5.2.3 Overhead, one-handed wrist flip pass

- a. 3.0 Poor stability in palm and decreased accuracy and distance in one-hand pass
- b. 3.5 Good accuracy and distance

5.5.2.4 Catching passes

- a. 3.0 One or two-handed catch; immediately brings the ball to the lap or stabilizes with another body part
- b. 3.5 May catch one-handed without need to stabilize on lap or may hold the ball away from the body with one hand

Comment Article 5.4.2.4: Catching passes: Classifiers should take caution and be very observant. There are some athletes in the 3.0 Sport Class who are capable of catching with one hand, and also holding the ball away from the body with one hand. Some athletes with large hands, and/or assistive equipment and/or who have developed ball skills from participating in other sports can catch with one hand and/or hold the ball away from the body with one hand. It is important to get a complete training history and inspect equipment to avoid penalizing athletes for body size, equipment, training and/or athletic skill. It is important to evaluate these activities with and without gloves and equipment, such as tape or glue.

6 Characteristics of Sport Classes

There are seven Sport Classes in Wheelchair Rugby: 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5. Athletes in each Sport Class have unique Sport-specific abilities and specific roles on the court.

Athletes are sometimes referred to as “high point”, “mid point” or “low point” athletes. Low point Sport Classes are the 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 Sport Classes. Mid point Sport Classes are the 2.0 and 2.5 Sport Classes. The high point Sport Classes are the 3.0 and 3.5 Sport Classes.

The 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 Sport Classes were originally developed to categorize athletes with asymmetrical or varied upper extremity Impairment and/or trunk Impairment. However, there are currently physical assessment features and characteristics of ball and chair tasks identified for athletes in these three Sport Classes who have both asymmetrical and symmetrical arm Impairment.

Athletes in each Sport Class represent a wide range of Impairment. Some Activity Limitation may at times overlap due to the range of Impairment within one class. For example, an Athlete with asymmetrical Impairment can show some activities consistent with a higher Sport Class. However, the athlete’s overall activities do not match with what is expected in the higher class.

Other overlap may be due to skills development, training and/or talent. For example, the capabilities of a world-class Athlete in the 0.5 Sport Class may exceed those of many good quality athletes in the 1.0 Sport Class and, in a few cases, new or inexperienced athletes in the 1.5 Sport Class.

Comment Article 6: The descriptions included in this section are designed to assist the Classifier in training to understand characteristics unique to the Sport Classes in Wheelchair Rugby. Examples in this article are not complete Sport Class profiles and are not inclusive of all possible characteristics. These characteristics describe arm/hand Impairment and their impact on sport-specific activities. With the exception of the Athlete in the 0.5 Sport Class, characteristics will vary widely among athletes with partial to no trunk Impairment, those with various combinations of arm Impairment, and those with Impairment in limb length.

6.1 Sport Class 0.5

The activities an Athlete performs include but are not limited to:

- a. Consistent proximal shoulder instability,
- b. Posture in sitting includes sacral sitting posture, kyphosis and/or sits low in wheelchair,
- c. Typical on court role -- defense / blocker,
- d. Unopposed biceps push with abduction of the arm,
- e. Forward head with bob when pushing,
- f. Often uses forearms to turn and stop,
- g. Trunk flexes forward and uses forearms to press down on wheel to decelerate/stop,
- h. Uses back ¼ of wheel to stop, start and turn,
- i. Relatively slow transition/ recovery from one activity to the next,
- j. Covers short distance/volume on court,
- k. Volleyball and/or scoop pass; no chest pass, and

- l. Traps direct passes on lap or bats into lap from limited range.

6.2 Sport Class1.0

The activities an Athlete performs include but are not limited to:

- a. More balanced shoulder strength so arms are less abducted during pushing than the 0.5 Athlete,
- b. Typical on court role -- defense / blocker,
- c. May inbound ball but not a major ball handler,
- d. May have triceps push (especially see elbow extension at the end of the push stroke) and/ or unopposed biceps push with longer wheel contact,
- e. May have slight head bob throughout pushing, especially visible in starts,
- f. Longer contact actively propelling on wheel, may have some ability to reverse pushing on back of wheel,
- g. Multidirectional start, stop and turn—including wheeling backwards,
- h. May use wrist extensors to hook under portion of rim,
- i. Forearm or fist/ wrist catch, and
- j. Weak chest or forearm pass.

6.3 Sport Class 1.5

The tasks an Athlete with symmetrical arm Impairment performs include but are not limited to:

- a. Typical on court role: Excellent blocker and may also be an occasional ball handler,
- b. Slight head bob at start, not typically throughout push,
- c. Increased shoulder strength/ stability allows for more effective pushing with limited explosive start due to triceps weakness,
- d. Typically, the chest pass is not entirely flat, but with some arch,
- e. Increased shoulder strength and stability allows for some distance and consistency to chest pass,
- f. More effective chest pass than the typical 1.0 Athlete, due to stronger triceps and shoulder muscles, and
- g. Typically has wrist imbalance that causes limited ball security.

The activities an Athlete with asymmetrical arm Impairment performs include but are not limited to:

- h. Asymmetrical arm or hand Impairment, noticeable with chair and ball handling activities,
- i. Asymmetrical push, may compensate with drag on strong side,
- j. Turns toward weak side with more skill, strength and speed than towards strong side,
- k. May use strong side more effectively when picking, and
- l. One-sided ball handling skills – for example, one hand used more for stabilizing while other hand used to direct pass.

6.4 Sport Class 2.0

The activities an Athlete performs include but are not limited to:

- a. Good shoulder strength and stability, allows for very effective pushing,
- b. Balanced/functional wrist flexion and extension, limited to no finger function
- c. Increasing role on court as a ball handler,
- d. Quick stops, starts, turns,
- e. Rims the ball using wrist flexion with wrist in neutral or flexed position,
- f. Functional wrist flexion results in increased passing distance compared to Athlete without wrist flexion,
- g. Inconsistent one-hand pass, takes time to set up with use of other hand, one-hand pass only effective when unchallenged,
- h. Limitations in ball security due to lack of finger function but can hold ball firmly with palms of hands using wrist flexion,
- i. Effective chest pass with control and consistency; typically flat if maximum distance,
- j. Dribble open-handed, with a flat hand and scoop bilaterally due to active wrist function,
- k. Scoops ball into lap when catching, and
- l. Control and distance in overhead pass is limited due to lack of finger function.

6.5 Sport Class 2.5

The activities with symmetrical arm Impairment include but are not limited to:

- a. Typical on court role: ball-handler and fairly fast playmaker,
- b. Because of excellent shoulder strength and stability will see good pushing speed on court,
- c. May have some trunk control giving better stability in the chair,
- d. Dribbles the ball safely, but supinates forearm to scoop the ball onto the lap,
- e. Finger flexion (DIP and PIP) used to hook around wheel for maneuvering chair in picks and braking,
- f. Due to finger flexion strength capable of performing one-handed overhead pass, takes some time to set up for pass, usually with assistance of other hand; limited accuracy and distance because of imbalance in finger strength,
- g. Safe two-handed catching of passes, usually scooping ball to lap. May catch passes one-handed and scoop to lap or chest, and
- h. Improved ball security compared to Athlete with 2.0 hand because of improved ability to isolate wrist/finger function, and
- i. Usually has some useful overhead game.

The activities with asymmetrical arm Impairment include but are not limited to:

- j. Asymmetrical arm or hand Impairment, noticeable with chair and ball handling skills,
- k. Asymmetrical push, may compensate with drag on strong side,
- l. Turns toward weak side with more skill, strength and speed than towards strong side,
- m. May use strong side more effectively when picking, and
- n. One-handed ball handling skills.

6.6 Sport Class 3.0

The activities an Athlete performs include but are not limited to:

- a. Normal shoulder, elbow and wrist strength; finger flexion and extension with weakness in lumbricals (flexion at the MCP joints) and/or thumb opposition and thumb abduction.
- b. On court role as very good ball handler and fast playmaker,
- c. Ability to grip wheel rim can increase pushing control and speed; especially in stops, starts and turns,
- d. Use of wrist/finger flexion allows quick set-up for one-hand pass, usually uses one hand alone without use of other hand to set up, especially if using dominant hand for passing,
- e. Uses wrist/finger flexion in one-hand flip pass and rimming the ball,
- f. Uses finger and/or thumb to stabilize with the opposite arm to allow greater reach if Athlete has no trunk,
- g. Multiple dribble one handed with control,
- h. Functional finger flexion and extension and partial thumb function allowing for control of the ball in varying planes,
- i. Functional finger flexion and extension provides the ability to grasp and release wheel rim regardless of wrist position, and
- j. Strong ball security in all positions, including overhead, with one or two hands.

6.7 Sport Class 3.5

The activities an Athlete performs include but are not limited to:

- a. Primary ball-handler and playmaker.
- b. If asymmetrical arm or hand Impairment, noticeable with chair and ball handling activities.
- c. If trunk present, very stable in wheelchair and able to use trunk for ball and chair activities.
- d. If the athlete has both hand and trunk muscle activity, usually has excellent ball control for controlled one hand passing for distance and excellent ball security during passing and catching.

Refer to Appendix A.7 Characteristics of Sport Classes and Illustration for a more general description of features of each of the seven Wheelchair Rugby Sport Classes, and an illustration including typical roles on court and ball and wheelchair activities.

PART II – ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES

Part II details USQRA procedures related to:

- a. Classification Procedures
- b. Athlete Evaluation
- c. Sport Class and Sport Class Status Allocation and Timelines
- d. Protests and Appeals
- e. Classification Personnel
- f. Classifier Training
- g. Classifier Certification
- h. Classification Administration
- i. Tournament Administration

7 Classification Procedures

Procedures used in Classification include Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status, evaluation timelines, observation, Athlete notification, and Protest and Appeal pathways.

7.1 Athlete Classification Pathway

7.1.1 The Classification schedule for Athlete Evaluation will be available prior to tournament play, or as soon as is logistically possible.

7.1.2 It is the responsibility of the athletes, coaches, Athlete Support Personnel, or team representatives to arrive in a timely manner according to the schedule.

Refer to Appendix A.1 for the Athlete Classification Pathway

7.2 Athlete Presentation for Evaluation

7.2.1 Athletes must dress appropriately and bring all documentation, competition gear, and Adaptive Equipment as required including but not limited to:

7.2.1.1 Present for evaluation seated in their competition wheelchair;

7.2.1.2 Bring competition gloves, straps, tape or any other Adaptive Equipment the Athlete intends to use during the competition, but do not wear gloves, straps or tape before start of manual muscle testing;

7.2.1.3 Adaptive Equipment, prostheses or orthotics used during the competition;

7.2.1.4 Documentation;

7.2.1.5 Current fee for Classification card; and

7.2.1.6 Passport photograph.

a. Athletes or their designee must bring a passport photo or a comparable photo to their Classification evaluation session and give the photograph to the tournament Chief Classifier or the Chief Classifier's designee in order to make the Athlete's Classification Card.

Comment Article 7.2.1: Documentation refers to any medical records, medical specialist diagnostic records and test results, and previous Classification records such as international Classification forms that the Athlete is requested to bring or chooses to bring as supporting evidence.

7.2.2 The Chief Classifier or designated representative should meet the Athlete and accompanying support staff in a reception area to:

7.2.2.1 Check the Athlete has met all of the requirements for dress and equipment, and

7.2.2.2 Collect any documentation brought by the Athlete.

7.2.3 The Athlete must be able to give maximum effort and cooperate fully with all aspects of Classification to be allocated a Sport Class.

7.2.3.1 If an Athlete has a Health Condition causing pain that limits or prohibits full effort during the evaluation, the Athlete may not be appropriate for evaluation

at that time and Classification may be suspended in accordance with Articles 8.3 and 8.4 of these rules.

7.2.3.2 The Chief Classifier may, time permitting; re-schedule the Athlete for evaluation at another time.

7.2.3.3 However, if Classification is not completed and the Athlete is not allocated a Sport Class and a sport class Status, the Athlete cannot compete at that tournament.

7.2.4 The Athlete has the right to request a support person, such as a coach, Athlete support person or official team representative, to accompany him/her when attending Athlete Evaluation.

7.2.5 If the Athlete requires an interpreter, the team is responsible for arranging an interpreter. The interpreter will be permitted to accompany the Athlete in addition to the support person selected by the Athlete to attend the Evaluation Session.

7.2.6 The Athlete may request that a Player Classification Representative (PCR) is present during Athlete Evaluation. Refer to Article 11.8 Player Classification Representative (PCR).

7.3 Completion of Athlete Evaluation Agreement Forms

7.3.1 Athletes must agree to evaluation by signing an Athlete Evaluation Agreement form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and cooperation throughout the Classification process according to Article 8.1 of these rules.

7.3.2 The Athlete Evaluation Agreement form reminds athletes that failing to cooperate with Classifiers, failure to complete the Classification process, or intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities are subject to sanctions in accordance with Articles 8.2 Athlete Failure to Attend Evaluation, 8.3 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation, and 8.5 Intentional Misrepresentation.

7.3.3 Signing the Athlete Evaluation Agreement form includes but is not limited to:

7.3.3.1 Willingness to undertake a complete Athlete Evaluation, including all components required, and to take part giving maximum effort and cooperating fully with the Classifiers, and

7.3.3.2 Acknowledge that Classifiers are not held liable for any pain or suffering experienced in the course of the Athlete Evaluation.

Refer to Appendix B.3 Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form.

7.4 Classification Process Briefing

- 7.4.1 The Chief Classifier or a Classification Panel member will brief the Athlete and accompanying support staff about the procedures involved in the Classification process.
- 7.4.2 It is the responsibility of all athletes and coaches to respect the Classification process and to keep in mind this process is in place for the benefit of all athletes and for the sport of Wheelchair Rugby.
- 7.4.3 In this regard, it is the responsibility of all athletes and coaches to be an integral part of the Classification process and, at all times, to respect and cooperate with the Classifiers.

7.5 Athlete Evaluation Procedure

- 7.5.1 The physical and technical assessments should take place during the Classification Evaluation Period. The observation assessment takes place during training/practice and/or competition.

Comment Article 7.5.1: At most USQRA Competitions, Athlete Classification typically takes place during tournament play and a clearly defined Classification Evaluation Period that occurs prior to the start of the tournament may not be possible.

- 7.5.2 Athletes may be requested to remove uniform tops if necessary to test and observe muscle contraction and movements during the evaluation. Female athletes should wear appropriate underclothing to permit removal of their uniform shirt.
- 7.5.3 Athletes may also be asked to transfer to other surfaces for testing, such as a treatment table, floor mat or chair.
- 7.5.4 The Athlete should be evaluated without any other athletes, coaches, and Athlete Support Personnel present.

Comment Articles 7.5.3, 7.5.4: Logistics and physical facilities may not allow for a completely secluded location for all parts of Athlete Evaluation, especially if court space is needed for tournament play and access to court space for Classification is limited. Classifiers will make their best effort to provide the Athlete with freedom from the observation and attention of other athletes, coaches or Athlete Support Personnel during testing.

- 7.5.5 Athletes must give full effort and complete cooperation throughout the Classification process. An Athlete, who in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is either not able to participate fully in the Classification process or appears to be unwilling to participate fully in the Classification process, will be considered non-cooperative during evaluation and Athlete Evaluation may be suspended in accordance with Article 8.3 and Article 8.4.
- 7.5.6 An Athlete, who in the opinion of the Classification Panel is intentionally misrepresenting his/her skills and/or abilities, will be considered in violation of the USQRA Classification Rules in accordance with Article 8.5.

7.6 Entry Sports Class and Sports Class Status

- 7.6.1 The Athlete is allocated an Entry Sport Class and Sport Class Status after the physical and technical assessment.
- 7.6.2 The Classifiers may convene regarding the athlete's Classification decision without the Athlete present.
 - 7.6.2.1 If a PCR was requested during the evaluation, the PCR may be present.
 - 7.6.2.2 If an Executive Board member (EBM) was requested during the evaluation, the EBM may be present.
- 7.6.3 For any Athlete who is under review to make a decision between Sport Classes after the physical and technical assessment, the assigned Entry Sport Class will be that of the higher Sport Class. If the Classification Panel members need to vote, a majority decision is necessary.

Comment Article 7.6.3: An exception to this rule may be made for the Athlete who is between the 3.5 and 4.0 Sport Class (NE). The total sport class recorded at the bottom of the classification form may be written as 3.75 and not rounded up. If the Athlete must be observed in competition to make the final decision, the Athlete's Entry Sport Class and Sport Class Status must be 3.5R for the Athlete to be permitted to take the court.

- 7.6.4 Once the Classification Panel has made a decision on the athlete's Entry Sport Class, at least one member of the Classification Panel shall inform the Athlete of the panel's decision. This should take place as soon as possible after the decision is made.
- 7.6.5 The Athlete is encouraged to discuss the Classification result and ask any questions which may arise. Both the Athlete and coach or team representative may be present for the explanation of the results and permitted to discuss the rationale for the decision in a respectful and professional manner.
- 7.6.6 The Athlete under review with R Sport Class Status will be observed on the court during training and/or competition to confirm the Sport Class and Sport Class Status. A final decision on Sport Class will be made as soon as possible, dependent on tournament regulations.
- 7.6.7 Once the Classification Panel has made the final decision on the athlete's Sport Class after observation, at least one member of the Classification Panel shall inform the Athlete of the panel's decision. This should take place as soon as possible after the decision is taken.
 - 7.6.7.1 If more time is needed to discuss the sport class decision or answer questions about further steps in the process, the Athlete and Coach should coordinate with the Chief Classifier to set an appointment as soon as is logistically possible.

7.7 Sport Class and Sport Class Status Allocation

7.7.1 Sport Class

7.7.1.1 Sport Class is a numerical category that is used to group athletes by reference to the extent of Impairment and Activity Limitation specific to the wheelchair and ball activities in wheelchair rugby.

7.7.1.2 There are seven Sport Classes ranging from 0.5 to 3.5.

7.7.1.3 A value of 4.0 or greater indicates the Athlete is Not Eligible.

a. Not Eligible (NE) is a Sport Class.

7.7.2 Sport Class Status

7.7.2.1 In addition to the assignment of a Sport Class, an Athlete in Wheelchair Rugby is also allocated a Sport Class Status.

7.7.2.2 Sport Class Status indicates further evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.

7.7.2.3 Sport Class Status assists in identifying athletes who:

- a. Have not been previously classified,
- b. Do not have a Sport Class and Sport Class Status verified by a USQRA panel,
- c. Require a review of their Sport Class, or
- d. Do not require Athlete Evaluation for a specific Competition.

7.7.2.4 Sport Class Statuses in wheelchair rugby are:

- a. New (N)
- b. Review (R)
- c. Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)
- d. Confirmed (C)
- e. Temporary (T)

7.7.2.5 The N Sport Class Status is used:

- a. An Athlete is a new Athlete and has not been previously evaluated by a USQRA Classification Panel.
- b. Athletes who enter a tournament with New (N) Status will have their Sport Class Status changed to Review (R) when Entry Sport Class is allocated. If this Athlete leaves the tournament with a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Status, that evaluation counts as the first of the three required for a Confirmed Sport Class Status (C).
- c. If an Athlete who entered with New Status (N) leaves a tournament with Review Status (R), that evaluation does not count as one of the three consecutive evaluations without a change in Sport Class required for a Confirmed Status (C).

7.7.2.6 The R Sport Class Status is used:

- a. New Athletes require further Athlete Evaluation to verify their Sport Class.
- b. Athletes previously evaluated by an USQRA Panel continue to require review to verify their Sport Class.
- c. Athletes require further observation assessment to verify their Sport Class because the Athlete had limited court time.
- d. The Athlete only recently entered competition in wheelchair rugby and is new to playing the sport and/or is inexperienced, for example, less than one year playing the sport.
- e. The Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/s that is/are Permanent but not stable.
- f. The Athlete is a young age and has not yet reached musculoskeletal or sports maturity.
- g. The Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) but which has not stabilized, for example, a non-progressive, acquired injury of duration of two years or less.
- h. Review Sport Class Status (R) may be added to an Athlete's Sport Class as part of a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances in accordance with Article 9.4.1.
- i. If an Athlete leaves any tournament with Review Sport Class Status (R), this evaluation does not count as one of the Athlete's three consecutive evaluations without a change in Sport Class that is required for allocation of a Confirmed (C) Sport Class Status.

Comment Article 7.7.2.6: With Review Sport Class Status, the athlete's Sport Class is valid for entry into a Tournament, but the Athlete is subject to re-evaluation at that Tournament if Classification is available, or at the next Tournament the athlete competes at where Classification is available.

7.7.2.7 The FRD Sport Class Status is used:

- a. The Athlete with Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status is not required to undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to the 3-year recheck date. These dates are set according to the dates of tournaments in the USQRA rugby season in which the Athlete should be reviewed.
- b. USQRA considers the 3-year review date based on the date of the tournament where the previous Athlete Evaluation has taken place. For example, if the date of the evaluation was NAT 15, meaning the 2015 USQRA Nationals, the next evaluation would take place at NAT 18, meaning the 2018 USQRA Nationals, or later.
- c. If the Athlete leaves a tournament with a FRD Status, the evaluation counts as one of the athlete's three required for allocation of confirmed (C) Sport Class Status.

- d. When the Entry Sport Class of a New Athlete (an Athlete undertaking his/her first USQRA Classification and allocated R Sport Class Status following the physical and technical assessment) is finalized and the Sport Class Status is changed to Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD), this evaluation will be considered as the athlete's first USQRA Sport Class, US (1) toward confirmed (C) Status.
- e. When the Review (R) Sport Class Status of an Athlete undergoing his/her second Classification (the 1st 3-year FRD recheck) is removed and there was no change in Sport Class, this evaluation is considered the athlete's second Classification US (2) towards confirmed (C) Status.
- f. When the Review (R) Sport Class Status of an Athlete undergoing his/her third Classification (the 2nd 3-year FRD recheck) is removed and there has been no change in Sport Class, the Athlete is allocated a confirmed (C) Sport Class Status.

Comment Article 7.7.2.7d and 7.7.2.7e: Once the R Status changes to FRD, US (1), the Athlete should undergo re-evaluation in three years, referred to as a three year re-check; followed by a second re-evaluation in another three years.

7.7.2.8 The C Sport Class Status is used:

- a. A Classification Panel has previously evaluated an Athlete and the panel has confirmed the Sport Class will not change.
- b. A Classification Panel assigns Confirmed (C) Sport Class Status to an Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class at three consecutive classifications with no change in the athlete's Sport Class at the conclusion of the Competition. These evaluations should occur over a minimum of six years. A USQRA Panel should evaluate an Athlete every three years, as is logistically possible, until Confirmed (C) Status has been allocated.
- c. This six-year minimum rule is implemented to ensure that an Athlete is allocated a confirmed (C) Sport Class Status after a sufficient time period to demonstrate that the Sport Class is stable.
- d. Confirmed Sport Class Status (C) provides a degree of protection and stability of competition to the Athlete. The Athlete with C Sport Class Status will not have a change in Sport Class except in the case of a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances, for example, a change in the athlete's underlying health condition and/or degree of impairment, or a change in Classification Rules, in accordance with Article 9.4 Special Provisions).

Comment Article 7.7.2.8: Confirmed (C) Sport Class Status replaces Permanent Sport Class Status (P) in compliance with the 2015 IPC Classification Code.

7.7.2.9 The T Sport Class Status is used:

- a. An Athlete may be allocated a temporary Sport Class Status (T) if an incomplete Classification Panel evaluates the Athlete, in accordance with these Classification Rules of the USQRA.

- b. Only a level 3 or 4 USQRA Classifier, who is not working as a member of a Classification Panel, may allocate a Sport Class and Temporary Sport Class Status (T).
- c. A Sport Class with Temporary Sport Class status (T) is provisional only. To obtain a valid USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status, the Athlete with a T Sport Class Status must be evaluated at the next available tournament that the Athlete plans to attend where a full Classification Panel is present.
- d. Because a Temporary Sport Class Status (T) is a provisional Sport Class Status, T Status should not be used in USQRA post-season play.

7.7.2.10 Athletes must have a USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status that has been verified by a USQRA Classification Panel to compete on court in post-season play.

Comment Article 7.7.2.9: At select tournaments, developmental tournaments, or training clinics in the US an Athlete may be examined by one level 3 or level 4 Classifier and/or by one level 3 or level 4 Classifier and Trainee Classifiers and be allocated a T Sport Class Status. A Sport Class with Temporary Sport Class Status (T) is not considered a verified USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status. For example, this might take place at events to educate Classifiers, athletes, coaches, and Athlete Support Personnel in areas where there are new or developing teams. The Athlete is provided with this provisional Sport Class to begin play, but the Athlete must undergo Classification according to the USQRA Classification Rules by an authorized USQRA Panel at the next tournament that the Athlete intends competing at and where Classification is offered.

Comment Article 7.7.2.10: Post-season participation by only those athletes with a USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status is the desired goal. For reasons such as budgetary restrictions for Classification, USQRA may not be able to provide Classification at an appropriate number of tournaments and regions throughout the season to ensure that all new athletes are able to enter post-season play with a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The entry of an Athlete into post-season play without a Sport Class and Sport Class Status may be considered only in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the USQRA Head of Classification and the USQRA Commissioner.

7.7.3 Sport Class Status for Athletes with fluctuating and/or progressive Impairments

- 7.7.3.1 The Athlete who has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment that is Permanent but not stable may be allocated Review Sport Class Status (R) so that the Athlete may be reviewed by a Classification Panel prior to a Competition more often than the 3-year time frame for Sport Class Status review with a fixed date (FRD).
- 7.7.3.2 If the Athlete's Sport Class remains unstable (improving or deteriorating), the Sport Class Status review (R) may remain long-term.
- 7.7.3.3 If the Athlete's Sport Class is stable, the Review (R) Sport Class Status may be changed to Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) and eventually to Confirmed (C) if the Sport Class is unchanged after the next two evaluations within the 3-year time frames.

Comment Article 7.7.3: If the Athlete is allocated Fixed Review Date Status FRD (US 1); remains stable at the first 3 year Fixed Review Date (US 2), and continues to be stable at the second 3 year Fixed Review Date, the Athlete should be allocated confirmed Status (C).

7.8 Sport Class Allocation Timeline

7.8.1 The timeline for decisions on Sport Class and Sport Class Status varies depending on the Sport Class Status of the Athlete.

7.8.2 Athletes who enter the tournament with Sport Class Status N or R may have their Sport Class changed at any time and this change will take effect immediately, including decisions regarding Eligibility.

7.8.3 N Status Timeline

7.8.3.1 If an Athlete is attending a USQRA tournament and obtaining his/her first USQRA Sport Class (enters with Sport Class Status New), that Athlete's Sport Class may be changed at any time during the tournament, including decisions about Eligibility.

7.8.3.2 If the Athlete is determined as not eligible (NE), this athlete's ineligibility occurs as soon as possible, in accordance with the tournament rules of play.

7.8.4 R Status Timeline

7.8.4.1 Athletes entering a USQRA tournament with Sport Class Status Review may have their Sport Class changed at any time during the tournament, including decisions about Eligibility.

7.8.4.2 If the Athlete is determined as not eligible (NE), this athlete's ineligibility occurs as soon as possible, in accordance with the tournament rules of play.

7.8.5 FRD Status Timeline

7.8.5.1 In order to minimize the impacts of changes in an athlete's Sport Class on that Athlete and the athlete's team, a distinction is made in the process of allocating a succeeding Sport Class in comparison to the approach taken with athletes who are presenting for USQRA Classification for the first time.

7.8.5.2 This procedure recognizes and respects the validity of previously awarded USQRA Sport Classes and the panels who allocated the Sport Classes.

7.8.5.3 If a panel assessing an Athlete who has a US (1) or US (2) Sport Class as recorded in the USQRA Classification Database, believes the Athlete has been awarded an inaccurate class in the previous evaluation, any change to the Athlete's Sport Class will only be made following the completion of all three parts of the Classification process: the bench test, sport-specific activity testing, and observation on court during competition.

7.8.5.4 This procedure applies regardless of whether the Panel believes the athlete's Sport Class should be raised or lowered.

7.8.5.5 This procedure applies whether the Athlete is being seen as part of the standard Athlete Evaluation process or as part of a Protest.

Comment Article 7.8.5.5: This means if the results of the Impairment Tests and/or sport-specific tests indicate the current Sport Class is not accurate, the Classification Panel MUST complete the observation assessment prior to any change in the Sport Class.

7.8.5.6 Following successful completion of all components of the Classification process, if the Panel makes a decision that a Sport Class change is needed, the Athlete will be advised as soon as possible. If the decision is made after the start of semi-finals, the change does not take place until the end of the tournament.”

Comment Article 7.8.5.6: This means when an Athlete enters a tournament with FRD Status and a valid Sport Class previously awarded by a USQRA Panel, US (1) or US (2), their Sport Class status is changed to R to undergo Athlete Evaluation. If the panel arrive at their decision prior to the start of semi-final or championships rounds any changes in Sport Class take place as soon as is logistically possible. If the panel decision is made after that time, changes do not take effect until the conclusion of the tournament.

7.8.5.7 However, this timeline procedure for Sport Class Changes for Athletes with FRD Status does not apply in the following circumstances:

- a. When an Athlete has been considered Non-Cooperative (NC) with the Classification process, according to Article 8.3 in the USQRA Classification Manual.
- b. When an Athlete has been determined by the previous panel to be Not Eligible (NE), and the second panel is conducting the re-evaluation according to Article 4.

7.8.6 Notification of Third Parties

7.8.6.1 At the end of each Classification session, or at the end of each day during the Classification Evaluation Period, the Chief Classifier should communicate the outcomes of assigned Sport Class and Sport Class Status to the local organizing committee.

7.8.6.2 The Chief Classifier and/or the local organizing committee should inform all relevant parties of outcomes of Athlete Evaluation.

7.8.6.3 Sport Class and Sport Class Status may be posted at the Competition site and/or distributed to all teams at the end of each day, or as soon as is logistically possible.

Comment Article 7.8.6: Not all USQRA tournaments have designated times for Classification sessions or a specified Classification Evaluation Period. Classification may take place throughout the tournament. The Chief Classifier may update the local organizing committee and post results at the end of each day or as soon as is logistically possible.

7.8.7 Changes in Sport Class Resulting from Observation Assessment

7.8.7.1 If the Classification Panel decides on any change to an athlete’s Sport Class during the observation assessment at least one member of the Classification Panel should inform the Athlete and local organizing committee of the panel’s

decision as soon as is logistically possible, which is not limited to the time immediately following the match in which the decision is made.

7.8.7.2 Sport Class changes should be posted at the Competition site and/or distributed to all teams at the end of each day, or as soon as is logistically possible.

7.8.7.3 The USQRA Classification card should be collected and a new card prepared with the revised Sport Class; no additional fee is required to revise the card.

7.9 USQRA Classification Cards

7.9.1 After the Athlete is allocated an Entry Sport Class and Sport Class Status following the physical and technical assessment, the Chief Classifier or his/her designee at the tournament may issue the Athlete an official plastic USQRA Classification card.

7.9.2 Athletes must bring a passport sized or similar photo with them to the tournament and pay the current fee for a new Classification card to be issued the official card.

7.9.2.1 If the Athlete has not provided the required photo and/or not paid the fee for a new card, a temporary paper card will be issued.

7.9.2.2 Once the Athlete provides the required photo and pays the fee, the official card will be made.

7.9.3 Lost or forgotten Classification cards must be replaced with an official plastic USQRA Classification card or with a paper temporary tournament only card issued in order for the Athlete to participate at the Competition.

7.9.3.1 If an Athlete has a USQRA Classification card that is damaged or otherwise no longer legible from normal wear and tear and a replacement card needs to be made; there is no fee for a new Classification card and the Athlete may provide a new photo if so requested.

7.9.3.2 If an Athlete has a USQRA Classification card and is entitled to a female or age adjustment and a replacement card needs to be made; there is no fee for a new Classification card and the Athlete may provide a new photo if so requested.

7.9.3.3 If an Athlete has an intact and legible USQRA Classification card and wants to provide a new photo and have a replacement card made, the Athlete must pay the current fee for a new Classification card.

7.9.4 Official USQRA Classification cards may be obtained at tournaments sanctioned by USQRA for Classification or at tournaments where an official USQRA Classification Panel is present.

7.9.5 USQRA Classification cards must be used for identification of Sport Class at all USQRA-post season tournaments, at all tournaments that are sanctioned for USQRA Classification, and at all tournaments where an official USQRA Panel is present.

7.9.6 USQRA only puts Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) on the Classification card of Athletes who no longer require Athlete Evaluation.

Comment Article 7.9: USQRA has many non-sanctioned tournaments prior to the post-season, where Classification is not available. Athletes should use their USQRA Classification cards at all tournaments. However, the Tournament Director (TD) may permit the Athlete to participate without a valid USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status on a case-by-case basis.

Refer to Appendix C.6 Guideline to USQRA Classification Card Fees for charges for a new card, replacement card, and temporary card and to Appendix C.7 for Reference Guide for Tournament Classification.

7.10 USQRA Classification Form Request

- 7.10.1.1 Athletes may request a copy of their personal USQRA Classification by complying with the Access to Classification information form.
- 7.10.1.2 The Access to Classification Information form can be obtained from the USQRA Head of Classification, the tournament Chief Classifier or designee, or the USQRA Classification manual on the USQRA website.
- 7.10.1.3 The Athlete must complete, sign and return the Access to Classification Information form to the USQRA Head of Classification or the tournament Chief Classifier.
- 7.10.1.4 An administrative fee may be charged for each access to Classification information request to cover the costs of mailing if forms must be sent by regular paper mail. Refer to Appendix B.6 for the Access to Athlete Classification information form.

7.11 USQRA Sport Class Exceptions

- 7.11.1 The USQRA gives exceptions to Sport Class for female and age. Athletes who are female, age 45 or over, over age 65, and/or under age 16 are eligible for a Sport Class adjustment.
- 7.11.2 The adjusted Sport Class of the athletes is defined as the Competition Class.
 - 7.11.2.1 The lowest permitted value for a Competition Class is 0.0.

Comment Article 7.11: The USQRA adopted Sport Class exceptions based on female and age to promote participation by Athletes who are female players, older players or players who have not yet reached musculoskeletal maturity. These exceptions consist of adjustments made to the Athlete's Sport Class. A 0.5 deduction is allowed for each exception. The maximum value of deductions that may be taken is 1.5 (for a female athlete over age 65). The IWRP uses a sport technical rule permitting adjustment to the point total allowed on court and not adjustments to the Athlete's Sport Class. The only exception in the IWRP rules is to allow an additional 0.5 points for each female athlete on court.

The USQRA membership adopted the policy allowing Sport Class deductions for Athletes over age 65, and allowing Athletes who qualify for more than one Sport Class exception to take a 0.5 deduction for each exception (for example, female athletes over 45 may take two 0.5 deductions for sex and age), April 2017, effective date the 2017-2018 season.

- 7.11.3 Female Athletes

- 7.11.3.1 The USQRA Sport Class is adjusted by decreasing the Sport Class 0.5 to arrive at the Competition Class.
- 7.11.3.2 Athletes wishing to take this Sport Class adjustment must inform the USQRA Head of Classification or tournament Chief Classifier to have her Classification card revised with the female deduction.
- 7.11.3.3 The documentation on the Classification form and Classification card is completed showing the actual Sport Class and Sport Class Status and the adjusted Competition Class.
- 7.11.3.4 The athlete's Sport Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the upper left hand corner. The Competition Class is written in the center of the card. For example, if the Sport Class for a female Athlete is 0.5, the athlete's Competition Class is 0.0. (Refer to Appendix C.7 Reference Guide for Tournament Classification.)
- 7.11.3.5 If a female Athlete has a Sport Class of 4.0 or higher, she is not eligible (NE); a Sport Class adjustment is not permitted.

Comment Article 7.11.3: The USQRA membership adopted the policy on female athletes April 2008, Effective Date the 2008-2009 Season. If a new Classification card needs to be made, there is no fee for a new card and the Athlete may provide a new photo, if requested.

7.11.4 Athletes 45-years of age or over

- 7.11.4.1 The USQRA Sport Class is adjusted by decreasing the Sport Class by 0.5 to arrive at the Competition Class.
- 7.11.4.2 Athletes wishing to take the age adjustment must complete age verification by presenting a valid government issued driver's license, government issued identification card, military identification or passport to the USQRA Head of Classification or to the Chief Classifier at a tournament.
- 7.11.4.3 The documentation on the Classification form and Classification card is completed showing the actual Sport Class and Sport Class Status, and the adjusted Competition Class.
- 7.11.4.4 The athlete's Sport Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the upper left hand corner. The Competition Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the center of the card. For example, if the Sport Class for an Athlete 45 years of age or older is 1.0, the athlete's Competition Class is 0.5. (Refer to Appendix C.5 Guideline for USQRA Classification Card).
- 7.11.4.5 If the Athlete who is 45 years of age is also female, a 1.0 deduction to the Sport Class is allowed.
- 7.11.4.6 If an Athlete 45 years of age or over has a Sport Class of 4.0 or higher, the Athlete is not eligible (NE); an age adjustment is not permitted.

Comment Article 7.11.4: The USQRA membership adopted the policy on adjustment of Sport Class for athletes 45 years of age or over April 2009, Effective Date the 2009-2010 Season. Once age is verified, if a new card needs to be made, there is no fee for a new Classification card and a new photo may be provided, if requested. The cumulative deductions rule was adopted April 2017, Effective Date the 2017-2018 season. However, 0.0 is the lowest Competition Class possible.

7.11.5 Athletes under 16-years of age

7.11.5.1 The USQRA Sport Class of an Athlete who is under 16 years of age is adjusted by decreasing the Sport Class by 0.5 to arrive at the Competition Class.

7.11.5.2 Athletes wishing to take the age adjustment must complete age verification by presenting a valid form of legal proof of age; such as a birth certificate, a passport, or a government issued identification card to the USQRA Head of Classification or to the Chief Classifier at a tournament.

7.11.5.3 The documentation on the Classification form and card is completed showing the actual Sport Class and Sport Class Status and the adjusted Competition Class.

7.11.5.4 The age adjustment is valid until the Athlete's 16th birthday after which the exception is no longer effective and the Athlete must play with the actual Sport Class.

7.11.5.5 The date of the athlete's 16th birthday, which is the date of expiration for the age deduction, should be written on the Classification card.

7.11.5.6 The athlete's Sport Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the upper left hand corner. The Competition Class is written in the center of the card. For example, if the Sport Class for an Athlete under 16 years of age is 0.5, the athlete's Competition Class is 0. (Refer to Appendix C.5 Guideline for USQRA Classification Cards).

7.11.5.7 If the Athlete under 16 years of age is also a female Athlete, a 1.0 deduction to the Sport Class is allowed.

7.11.5.8 If the under 16 Athlete has a Sport Class of 4.0 or higher, the Athlete is not eligible (NE); an age adjustment is not permitted.

Comment Article 7.11.5: The USQRA membership adopted this policy on adjustment of Sport Class for athletes under 16 years of age April 2012, Effective Date the 2012-2013 season. Once age is verified, if this is the Athlete's first card, the Athlete pays the current fee for a new Classification card with the age deduction. The age deduction is only valid until the Athlete's 16th birthday, at which time if a new card needs to be made, there is no fee for a new Classification card without the age deduction Competition Class and a new photo may be provided, if requested. The cumulative deductions rule was adopted April 2017, Effective Date the 2017-2018 season. However, 0.0 is the lowest Competition Class possible.

7.11.1 Athletes over 65-years of age

7.11.1.1 The USQRA Sport Class is adjusted by decreasing the Sport Class by 0.5 to arrive at the Competition Class.

- a. The Athlete who is 45 years of age previously takes a 0.5 age adjustment. This age adjustment deduction may then be increased after age 65, and a 1.0 deduction may be taken for age.
- 7.11.1.2 Athletes wishing to take the age adjustment must complete age verification by presenting a valid government issued driver's license, government issued identification card, military identification or passport to the USQRA Head of Classification or to the Chief Classifier at a tournament.
- 7.11.1.3 The documentation on the Classification form and Classification card is completed showing the actual Sport Class and Sport Class Status, and the adjusted Competition Class.
- 7.11.1.4 The Athlete's Sport Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the upper left hand corner. The Competition Class is written on the USQRA Classification card in the center of the card. For example, if the Sport Class for an Athlete over 65 years of age is 1.0, the Athlete's Competition Class is 0.0. (Refer to Appendix C.5 Guideline for USQRA Classification Cards.)
- 7.11.1.5 If the Athlete over 65 years of age is also female, a 1.5 deduction to the Sport Class is allowed.
- 7.11.1.6 If an Athlete over 65 years of age has a Sport Class of 4.0 or higher, the Athlete is not eligible (NE); an age adjustment is not permitted.

Comment Article 7.11.1: The USQRA membership adopted this policy on adjustment of Sport Class for athletes over 65 years of age April 2017, Effective Date 2017-2018 Season. Once age is verified, if a new card needs to be made, there is no fee for a new Classification card and a new photo may be provided, if requested. The cumulative deductions rule was adopted April 2017, Effective Date the 2017-2018 season. However, 0.0 is the lowest Competition Class possible.

7.12 International Athletes in the USQRA

- 7.12.1 The USQRA includes players who are international athletes. The USQRA has specific rules governing the use of international and national Sport Classes and Classification cards in USQRA Competitions.
- 7.12.2 International Athletes with an IWRF Sport Class
 - 7.12.2.1 Any international Athlete who is a member of a USQRA team, and has a national Sport Class from a country other than the USA, or has an IWRF Sport Class, must undergo Athlete Evaluation by a USQRA certified Classification Panel to receive a USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status and obtain a USQRA Classification card in accordance with Article 7.9 of these rules.
 - 7.12.2.2 An international Athlete who is a member of a USQRA team must play with his/her USQRA Classification card. An international Athlete is not permitted to play on a USQRA team using a Classification card from the Athlete's nation or using an IWRF Classification card.

Comment Article 7.12.2: The USQRA membership adopted this policy to no longer permit international athletes on a USQRA team to use an IWRF Classification card April 2016; Effective Date 2016-2017 season. International athletes must undergo Classification by a certified USQRA Classification Panel to obtain a USQRA Sport Class and Classification card. All athletes rostered on USQRA teams, regardless of national origin, national identity card or passport, or place of residence must play with a USQRA Classification card and pay the relevant Classification card fees in accordance with these Classification rules.

7.12.3 International Teams participating in a USQRA tournament

7.12.3.1 International teams playing in a USQRA tournament should use their international (IWRF), Zone (IWRF) or National Sport Class.

7.12.3.2 Athletes should present their official National, IWRF Zone or IWRF international Classification card to authenticate their Sport Class, if requested.

Comment Article 7.12.3: If an international Athlete participating in a USQRA tournament does not have his/her Classification card and Classifiers are not present to verify an Athlete's Sport Class, the Tournament Director (TD) may permit the Athlete to participate without a valid IWRF or national Sport Class and Sport Class Status on a case-by-case basis.

7.12.4 USQRA athletes with an IWRF Sport Class

7.12.4.1 Athletes from the USA who are playing on a USQRA team and have an IWRF Sport Class must use their USQRA Classification card when playing in USQRA tournaments.

7.12.4.2 For some Athletes, there may be a difference in the USQRA Sport Class and the IWRF Sport Class. Regardless if the USQRA Sport Class is lower or higher, a USQRA Athlete must use his/her USQRA Classification card and USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status when playing on a USQRA team in a USQRA tournament.

8 Athlete Responsibilities

8.1 Athlete Participation in Classification

- 8.1.1 Once the Athlete receives a USQRA Classification card, it is the athlete's responsibility to bring the card to every tournament.
- 8.1.2 Failure to bring the card to a tournament or loss of the card will result in fees and fines for a replacement plastic card or a temporary paper card. Refer to Appendix C.6 Guideline to USQRA Classification Card Fees.
- 8.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Athlete to participate fully with the Classification Panel and to work together with complete cooperation to determine the most appropriate Sport Class in accordance with Articles 7, 8 and 9 of these rules.
 - 8.1.3.1 An Athlete who fails to attend Athlete Evaluation, or who is either not able to participate fully in the Classification process or appears to be unwilling to participate fully in the Classification process, or is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status and will not be permitted to compete at that tournament in accordance with this article of the rules.
 - 8.1.3.2 The Athlete may be considered in violation of the Classification Rules and undergo sanctions determined by the USQRA in compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

8.2 Athlete Failure to Attend Evaluation

- 8.2.1 If an Athlete fails to attend his/her scheduled evaluation session, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be entitled to compete in the tournament.
- 8.2.2 Failure to attend evaluation includes:
 - 8.2.2.1 not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place;
 - 8.2.2.2 not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation, including government issued driver's license, government issued identification card, military identification or passport; passport photograph or equivalent photo required for making the Classification card; and/or
 - 8.2.2.3 not attending the evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel, including a translator if needed.
 - a. The Athlete may opt to attend Classification without a support person. If the Athlete chooses to participate without a support person, this is not considered as Failure to Attend.
 - b. The Athlete's choice to attend without a support person may be recorded in the comments section on the Athlete's Classification form.

- 8.2.2.4 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend; an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation at that Competition, if logistically possible.
- a. A satisfactory explanation does not guarantee a second evaluation at that Competition.
 - b. If the workload of the Classification Panel and tournament schedule does not permit arranging of a second evaluation, the second and final attempt to attend evaluation will be deferred to the next available opportunity. The Athlete may not be permitted to compete at that tournament.
- 8.2.2.5 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, the Athlete should not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition. There may be allowances at the discretion of the Chief Classifier as follows:
- a. If the Athlete enters the Competition with New (N) Sport Class Status and has not been allocated a Sport Class, the Athlete should not be permitted to play in this Competition.
 - b. If the Athlete has a previous USQRA Sport Class, for example US (1) or US (2), the Athlete may be permitted to play using that Sport Class with Review (R) Sport Class Status added until the second and final evaluation is completed, at the discretion of the tournament Chief Classifier.

8.3 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation

- 8.3.1 An Athlete, who in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is either not able to participate fully in the Classification process or appears to be unwilling to participate fully in the Classification process, should be assigned Non-Cooperation (NC) during evaluation.
- 8.3.1.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to one or more of the following circumstances:
- a. a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
 - b. a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any Diagnostic Information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - c. the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
 - d. the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;

- e. if an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - f. if in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
 - g. the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
 - h. the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 8.3.2 If an Athlete is having difficulty with complying with Athlete Evaluation to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner for the Athlete, the Classification panel will discuss this difficulty with the Athlete. If satisfied a reasonable explanation exists for this problem, the panel will reschedule the evaluation session with the athlete at a later time during that tournament. This is simply a rescheduling of the evaluation to accommodate the Athlete and not Suspension of Athlete Evaluation.
- a. If for logistical reasons, the Athlete Evaluation Session cannot be rescheduled at that tournament; the Athlete who entered with a Sport Class may leave with the same Sport Class with which they entered the tournament and Sport Class Status Review (R).
 - b. If the Athlete entered the tournament with New (N) Status, the Athlete will leave without a Sport Class.

Comment Article 8.3: Non-Cooperation replaces the term "unclassifiable" in compliance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code.

- 8.3.3 If a Classification Panel suspends an Evaluation Session, the following steps should be taken:
- 8.3.3.1 the suspension of athlete evaluation will be recorded in the comments section on the Athlete's Classification form.
 - 8.3.3.2 an explanation for the suspension and details of the corrective action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant Team Representative;
 - 8.3.3.3 if an Athlete takes the corrective action and the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification is satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the circumstance requiring suspension of Athlete Evaluation; the Evaluation Session will be rescheduled and the Athlete given a second and final opportunity;
 - 8.3.3.4 if the Athlete has failed to take corrective action within any timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated and the Athlete consequences include:

- a. The Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status at the tournament and will not be permitted to compete at the tournament.
 - b. The Athlete may have his/her Sport Class changed at any time.
 - c. The Athlete may not be given a USQRA Sport Class or Sport Class Status at the conclusion of the tournament, at the discretion of the USQRA Chief Classifier.
- 8.3.3.5 If the Athlete is non-cooperative (NC) again when the second Athlete Evaluation Session resumes, or is NC on a second separate occasion of Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete is subject to sanctions as determined by the USQRA, in compliance with the IWRP rules and the IPC Athlete Classification Code:
- a. Any Athlete, who does not take corrective action so that Athlete Evaluation must be suspended when the Athlete Evaluation resumes or must be suspended on a second separate occasion of Athlete Evaluation, is not permitted to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation for a minimum of three months, starting on the date on which the Athlete failed to cooperate. The Athlete is allocated Non Cooperative with Review Status (NC R).
 - b. If an Athlete undergoes Athlete Evaluation following the three-month suspension, and again on this separate occasion following the suspension period is non-cooperative, the Non Cooperative Review (NC R) changes over to Not Eligible Confirmed (NE C). The Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible and Sport Class Status Confirmed (NE C) and is not permitted to undergo Athlete Evaluation again.
 - c. A Suspension of any Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

8.3.4 Exceptions for the Resolution of Suspended Athlete Evaluation

- 8.3.4.1 USQRA has many non-sanctioned tournaments prior to the post-season, where Classification is not available. Consequently, an Athlete may have had an Athlete Evaluation Session suspended in a previous tournament, yet there is no Classification Panel present at the current tournament to complete Athlete Evaluation, even if the Athlete has taken the corrective action.
- 8.3.4.2 The Tournament Director (TD) may permit the Athlete who does not have a valid USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status or has a previous US (1) or US (2) Sport Class to participate on a case-by-case basis.

8.4 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 8.4.1 An Athlete, who in the opinion of the Classification Panel in consultation with the Chief Classifier and/or Head of Classification, is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities, will be considered in violation of the USQRA Classification Rules.
- 8.4.2 If the Athlete intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, the consequences include:

- 8.4.2.1 The Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and under no circumstances will be permitted to compete at that tournament.
- 8.4.2.2 The Athlete is subject to other sanctions as determined by the USQRA in compliance with the USQRA Rules and/or the IWRF Rules and the IPC Classification Code. These sanctions may include:
- a. the Athlete will not be permitted to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation for up to two years from the date on which the Athlete committed Intentional Misrepresentation;
 - b. the Athlete will have any previous Sport Class and Sport Class Status removed from the USQRA master list;
 - c. the Athlete should be designated as IM (Intentional Misrepresentation) in the USQRA master list; and
 - d. any Athlete who on a second separate occasion commits Intentional Misrepresentation may receive a lifetime ban from USQRA and is subject to any sanctions deemed appropriate by the USQRA.

9 Protests

9.1 Definition and General Principles

- 9.1.1 A Protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 9.1.2 Protests are an integral right of Athletes and Classifiers; however, Protests should not be used in a manner that would unjustly affect the outcome of the competition. These sorts of Protests are "Tactical Protests" and are a breach of the principles of fair play.
- 9.1.3 It is important for Athletes and coaches to respect other Athletes and submit a Protest only when there is genuine doubt about the Sport Class of a competitor (International Paralympic Committee, 2000).
- 9.1.4 It is fundamental for everyone involved in the Protest process to respect the Athletes, team representatives, and Athlete Support Personnel and Classifiers; and to remember that Classification is for the benefit of all athletes and the sport of Wheelchair Rugby.

9.2 Protest Opportunities

- 9.2.1 The maximum number of Protests per Athlete during the Athlete's playing career is three.
 - 9.2.1.1 If an Athlete has a change in Sport Class, the number of Protests does not reset to zero.
 - 9.2.1.2 The only exception is a Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances, which does not count in the maximum number of three Protests.
- 9.2.2 The Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete indicates Protest opportunities that are available.
- 9.2.3 New (N) Status indicates an Athlete who has not been previously evaluated by a Classification Panel and has not had an Entry Sport Class verified by the USQRA.
 - 9.2.3.1 An Athlete, who enters a tournament with Sport Class Status N, and following the allocation of an Entry Sport Class and Sport Class Status R, may be protested by the Athlete (self-protest), or by another team, or by the Chief Classifier.

Comment Article 9.2.3: In compliance with the 2015 IPC Classification Code and the IWRF Classification Rules, the definition of New Status has changed in this version of the USQRA Classification Rules to only apply to Athletes who have not been evaluated by a Classification Panel before. Previous uses of New Status including athletes new to the game and inexperienced, injured less than two years, or with a progressive or unstable Impairment are now designated with Sport Class Status Review.

- 9.2.4 Review (R) Status indicates an Athlete who has undergone evaluation and has obtained an Entry Sport Class for Competition, but requires further evaluation.
- 9.2.4.1 Athletes with Sport Class Status R may be protested following allocation of Sport Class by the Athlete (self-protest), by another team, or by the Chief Classifier:
 - 9.2.4.2 If a Protest is lodged on an Athlete with R Sport Class Status, the Athlete is still under review by a Classification Panel at the tournament to finalize the Athlete's Sport Class.
 - 9.2.4.3 The Protest of an Athlete under review may be accepted and recorded by the Chief Classifier.
 - 9.2.4.4 The Protest Panel who will evaluate the Athlete will be informed of the Protest as soon as the Chief Classifier accepts the Protest.
 - 9.2.4.5 The Protest Panel only proceeds to the Physical Assessment when the first Classification Panel has completed its evaluation and finalized the athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 9.2.5 Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) indicates an Athlete is not scheduled for Classification at that event.
- 9.2.5.1 Athletes with Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) may be protested by that Athlete (self-protest), another Athlete or team, or the Chief Classifier (Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances).
 - 9.2.5.2 If a Protest is lodged and accepted on an Athlete with Fixed Review Date Status (FRD), the Sport Class Status is changed to Review (R) to undertake the Protest evaluation.
 - 9.2.5.3 If the Sport Class remains unchanged as a result of the Protest, the FRD Status is reinstated with no change in the fixed review date.
 - 9.2.5.4 If the Sport Class changes as a result of the Protest, the FRD Status is reinstated with a change in the fixed review date to three years from the time this Sport Class changed.
 - 9.2.5.5 If the Protest Panel begins the Athlete Evaluation and is unable to gather enough evidence to make a decision by the conclusion of the tournament, the Protest is carried forward to the next tournament that the Athlete intends competing at and where an appropriate Classification Panel is present:
 - a. Sport Class Status R is carried forward.
 - b. The Sport Class and Sport Class Status as a result of finalizing the Protest carried forward are managed in accordance with Articles 9.2.5.3 and 9.2.5.4.
- 9.2.6 Confirmed (C) Status indicates an Athlete who has undergone evaluation and the Sport Class has been confirmed for USQRA Competition.
- 9.2.6.1 This Athlete does not require further evaluation.

- 9.2.6.2 The USQRA Head of Classification and/or the tournament Chief Classifier may only protest athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) according to Article 9.4.1 Protest under Exceptional Circumstances.

9.3 Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 9.3.1 If a Protest is made at a Tournament but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved in accordance with the USQRA Classification Rules at that Tournament, the following conditions must apply:

- 9.3.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete using the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with a Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
- 9.3.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

Comment Article 9.3: On occasion, the resolution of a Protest may not be possible at a Competition, for example if the Classifiers available to participate in a Protest Panel are precluded from participation in a Protest Panel due to a conflict of interest, or in the event there are limited Classifiers at a Competition. In such instances the Protest must be deferred until the earliest available opportunity or the party who lodged the Protest may withdraw the Protest and lodge it at another Competition at a later date.

9.4 Special Provisions - Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances

9.4.1 Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances

- 9.4.1.1 The USQRA Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier may Protest any Athlete's Sport Class under Exceptional Circumstances at any time, even if the maximum number of three Protests has been met, and/or if the Athlete has Confirmed Sport Class Status.
- 9.4.1.2 The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier who lodges a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances must follow the relevant Protest Procedures in Articles 9.5-9.10.
- 9.4.1.3 A Protest under Exceptional Circumstances does not count as one of the three allowed Protests in the Athlete's career.
- 9.4.1.4 There is no fee for a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances.
- 9.4.1.5 A Protest made under exceptional circumstances follows the same process and procedures in Articles 9.5-9.9.
- 9.4.1.6 Exceptional circumstances may result from:
- a. If a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment affects the Athlete's ability to perform the Sport specific activities in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency, or

- b. an athlete's relevant impairment or sport specific activity limitation has changed, either through medical interventions or other means:
 - i. If there is any change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's impairment and related sport specific activities (9.1.4.6 a or b), an Athlete should submit a Medical Review Request to the USQRA Head of Classification.
 - ii. A Medical Review Request must be submitted for Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed or Review with Fixed Review Date if their Impairment and Sport Specific Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with their current Sport Class.
 - iii. The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed. ^[1-1]_{SEP}
 - iv. If the USQRA Head of Classification is satisfied of a change in Impairment or Sport Specific Activity Limitation, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) contingent on lodging a Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances. The USQRA Head of Classification will lodge a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances and the Athlete will be asked to undergo Athlete Evaluation at the next opportunity.
 - v. Refer to Appendix B.5 for the Medical Review Request Form.
- c. An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability to perform the specific activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- d. An error made by a Classification Panel that has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class that is not consistent with the athlete's ability.
- e. If the IWRF and/or the USQRA change the criteria or methodology used to allocate Sport Classes.

Comment Article 9.4.1: If an Athlete has a Not Eligible (NE) Sport Class and Confirmed Sport Class Status (C) secondary to Non-Cooperation, no further Athlete Evaluation of any kind is permitted in accordance with Articles 8.3 and 8.4 of these rules.

9.5 Protest Procedures

- 9.5.1 Any team or Athlete may Protest his/her own Sport Class (self-protest) or the Sport Class of an Athlete on an opposing team.
- 9.5.2 An Athlete with Confirmed Status cannot be protested with the exception of a Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances, according to Article 9.4 Special Provisions.
- 9.5.3 If an Athlete wishes to protest his/her own sport class, the Athlete must have the support of his/her coach or designee, and the coach or his/her designee must also sign the Classification Protest form.

- 9.5.4 Protests may be submitted to the USQRA Head of Classification or the tournament Chief Classifier prior to a tournament, or may be submitted to the Chief Classifier at a USQRA tournament sanctioned for Classification and where a Classification Panel is present.
- 9.5.5 Protests must be submitted on the USQRA Protest form. Official Protest forms may be obtained from the USQRA Head of Classification, tournament Chief Classifier, the USQRA Classification Manual, or on the USQRA website. (Appendix B.4 Protest Form)
- 9.5.6 The Protest form, accompanied by the Protest fee, should be submitted to the USQRA Head of Classification or his/her designee, for example, the tournament Chief Classifier. (Refer to Appendix C.7 Reference Guide to Tournament Classification.)
- 9.5.7 Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier may allow the Protest Fee to be given to the Chief Classifier upon arrival at the Tournament and not submitted at the time a Protest is lodged before the tournament.
- 9.5.8 The submitted Protest form must give a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Protested Decision is inaccurate.
- 9.5.9 Upon receipt of the official Protest form, the Head of Classification or his/her designee shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant Classification Rules concerning submission of the Protest have been followed.
- 9.5.10 The Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier may review the USQRA database, look at previous Classification forms and/or contact Classifiers involved in previous decisions to clarify information, if necessary, and if logistically possible.
- 9.5.10.1 If the Chief Classifier at the tournament is a member of the Protest Panel, the Chief may request the Head of Classification review the USQRA database, look at previous Classification forms and/or contact Classifiers involved in previous decisions to clarify information.
- 9.5.10.2 If necessary, the Chief Classifier may designate another Classifier who is not on the Protest Panel to do the review, if logistically possible.
- 9.5.10.3 If not logistically possible, the Protest may be deferred to the earliest available USQRA tournament the Athlete intends competing at and where an appropriate Classification Panel is present which meets the criteria to conduct the Protest evaluation.
- 9.5.11 If the relevant Classification Rules have not been followed, for example the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier will dismiss the Protest and return the Protest form and fee (if collected) and notify all relevant parties.
- 9.5.12 If all relevant Classification Rules concerning submission of a Protest have been followed and the Protest is accepted, the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier or his/her designee will notify all relevant parties of the date and time for the Protest evaluation, according to the USQRA Classification Rules for Protests.

9.5.13 For a Protest Submitted Prior to the Competition, the Athlete and/or Team Representative will be notified of the time for the Protest evaluation as soon as is logistically possible.

9.5.13.1 In some instances, this may not take place until the Classification Schedule is finalized, which may be upon arrival at the Tournament.

9.5.14 The source of the Protest is kept confidential regardless of who lodges the Protest with the exclusion of a Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances.

9.5.14.1 The tournament Chief Classifier and the USQRA Head of Classification will make every effort to ensure the source of the Protest is kept confidential.

9.5.14.2 If an Athlete is subject to a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances, the Athlete may be informed of the type of Protest.

9.5.15 Protests are handled in the order in which they are submitted with the tournament Chief Classifier or his/her designee.

9.5.15.1 To ensure that Protests are handled in the order in which they are submitted, time of deposit is recorded on the Protest forms when submitted to the tournament Chief Classifier or his/her designee.

9.6 Protest Panel

9.6.1 The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier appoints the Protest Panel:

9.6.1.1 If a Protest is filed prior to the tournament, the Head of Classification will appoint the Protest Panel.

9.6.1.2 If the protest is filed at a tournament, the Chief Classifier may be authorized by the Head of Classification to appoint the Protest Panel.

9.6.2 A Protest Panel should include Classifiers:

9.6.2.1 with equal or greater certification levels than those involved in the decision being protested; and

9.6.2.2 who have not conducted any Athlete Evaluation involving the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the Athlete or Team Representative undertaking the Protest Evaluation.

9.6.2.3 If the provisions in Article 9.6.2.1 and 9.6.2.2 are not logistically possible, it is the choice of the Athlete or team lodging the Protest to decide whether to proceed with the evaluation or defer resolution of the Protest to a tournament that the Athlete intends competing at where an appropriate Classification Panel is present which meets the criteria to conduct the Protest evaluation.

9.6.3 A Protest Panel should not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel who:

9.6.3.1 shares any team affiliation with the Athlete being protested; or

9.6.3.2 made the Protested Decision.

Comment Article 9.6.3: These restrictions are to ensure any Conflict of Interest risks are minimized. However, if the Athlete or Protesting Party is comfortable with the inclusion of one of the persons who should be ruled out from the Protest Panel, they may agree to this procedure and proceed with the Protest. This may be helpful in situations where logistics are such that a Protest may not otherwise be capable of resolution at a particular tournament. The Athlete's agreement to this inclusion should be noted on the Classification Form.

9.6.4 Additional members may include:

9.6.4.1 Player Classification Board Member (PCR) – if available:

- a. The PCR is a former or current Athlete selected to serve as the Athlete Representative, functions in an advisory capacity only, and is a non-voting member.
- b. If the Athlete requests a PCR be present, and a PCR is unavailable for any reason, the Chief Classifier may assign a substitute to act in this capacity.

9.6.4.2 USQRA Executive Board Member (EBM) – if available:

- a. The EBM and/or tournament director will be informed of a Protest and may be present, if available and/or requested by the tournament Chief Classifier.

9.6.4.3 The EBM serves in an advisory capacity observing that the Protest procedures are followed appropriately, the process is carried out in a professional and respectful manner; and is a non-voting member.

9.6.4.4 If the Chief Classifier decides an EBM should be present and the EBM is unavailable for any reason, the Chief Classifier may assign a substitute to act in this capacity.

9.7 Protest Timeline

9.7.1 A Protest of an Athlete (self-protest or by an opposing team) may be made up until the designated cut-off time at the tournament in accordance with the tournament format and rules, which are most often:

9.7.1.1 after each team has played once in a 'round robin' or

9.7.1.2 at the end of pool play.

9.7.2 It is the responsibility of athletes, coaches and teams to familiarize themselves with these timelines for submission of Protests. Lack of knowledge is not an exception to the rules for Protest submission.

9.7.3 Athletes, coaches and teams may contact the USQRA Head of Classification or the tournament Chief Classifier and local organizers of a tournament prior to the tournament, or as soon as possible upon arrival at a tournament, for further information on Protest submission timelines.

Comment Article 9.7: As logistically possible, the tournament Chief Classifier should communicate with the Tournament Director and Team Representatives ahead of time outlining the timeline for accepting Protests and the timeline for when any changes in Sport Class will take effect. This form of communication should be written using the USQRA Classification letter template to Teams and Representatives using email and/or paper mail, whichever is logistically possible. However, this communication prior to the tournament may not be possible in all cases as tournament organizers may not make a decision on format or communicate the tournament timelines until announced upon arrival at the event. Also, exceptional circumstances may require revising the competition format and timelines that were previously communicated, for example, if a team drops out of the tournament at a late date.

9.8 Protest Decision

- 9.8.1 The Head of Classification or Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 9.8.2 Once the Chief Classifier accepts the Protest, the Chief Classifier gives any documentation submitted with the Protest, and any additional written evidence offered in support of the Protest, to the Protest Panel to review the detailed reason for the Protest.
- 9.8.3 The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status.
- 9.8.4 The Protest Panel uses the information submitted with the Protest as the basis for their review and responds to the details and questions asked in their written decision.
- 9.8.5 The Protest Panel should conduct the evaluation with no previous documents or information, such as previous Classification forms or prior Protest forms, taking into consideration what is provided in the written Protest form and any support documents, and without reference to members of the Classification Panel involved in the allocation of the Sport Class being protested.

Comment Article 9.8.5: The Protest evaluation is conducted as if the Athlete is having his/her first Athlete evaluation.

- 9.8.6 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing the athlete's Sport Class with the agreement of the Chief Classifier and/or Head of Classification.
- 9.8.7 An Observation Assessment is necessary in the Protest procedure. An initial observation assessment, prior to the physical and sport-specific assessment, may take place without notifying the Athlete under Protest:
 - 9.8.7.1 In the case of a self-protest, the Athlete knows that he/she is under Protest. The Athlete and/or team representative may be informed of the time and date of the Athlete Evaluation, which may be scheduled before the initial observation.

- 9.8.7.2 If another party submits the Protest, the Athlete and team representative will be informed of the Protest as soon as possible. This may take place after the initial observation has been completed. The Athlete and/or team representative will be informed of the time and date of the Athlete Evaluation.
- 9.8.8 The Protest Panel will evaluate the Athlete in a physical and technical assessment.
- 9.8.9 The Athlete may have his coach OR a team representative and a translator present, if necessary, for the physical and sport-specific assessments.
- 9.8.10 The PCR and EBM may be present, if available.
- 9.8.11 Further observation may be necessary after the physical and sport-specific assessment, even if an initial observation assessment took place prior to the physical and sport-specific assessment.
- 9.8.12 The Protest Panel will make a decision as soon as possible after gathering all information and evidence needed to render a decision, according to Article 9.9 of these rules.
- 9.8.13 Inability for the Protest Panel to make a decision may result from:
- 9.8.13.1 insufficient playing time on court for the necessary observations to take place, for whatever reason;
 - 9.8.13.2 insufficient numbers of Classifiers to assemble a proper Protest Panel at the tournament; and/or
 - 9.8.13.3 multiple Protests filed at a tournament whereby the panels are unable to complete all Protests at that tournament.
- 9.8.14 If the Protest Panel is unable to make a decision by the end of the tournament, the Protest shall carry over to the earliest available USQRA tournament at which the Athlete will be competing and with an equivalent or higher level Classification Panel.
- 9.8.15 If the Protest Panel members are able to make a decision but are unable to reach consensus and there is a need to vote, a majority decision is necessary:
- 9.8.15.1 this decision is made by an open vote and not by secret ballot; and
 - 9.8.15.2 the individual votes are not recorded.
- 9.8.16 If a decision is reached, there are two possibilities:
- 9.8.16.1 The Protest is upheld, (for example, the athlete's Sport Class changes), the Protest fee will be refunded to the party who lodge the Protest; or
 - 9.8.16.2 The Protest is not upheld (for example, the athlete's Sport Class is not changed), the Protest fee remains with the USQRA Classification Committee.

9.9 Protest Decision Timeline

- 9.9.1 The implementation of any change of Sport Class occurring as a result of a Protest on an Athlete who entered the tournament with Sport Class Status New (N) or Review (R) will take effect as soon as possible prior to the start of the tournament semi-finals.
- 9.9.2 If the decision is made after the start of semi-finals, the change will be implemented at the end of the tournament.
 - 9.9.2.1 Refer to Articles 7.8.3 and 7.8.4 for what happens if NE decision made.
 - 9.9.2.2 For the procedure to follow in a decision of Not Eligible, refer to Article 4 Sport Class Not Eligible.
- 9.9.3 The implementation of any change of Sport Class as a result of a Protest on an Athlete who enters a tournament with Review with FRD Status and a valid Sport Class previously awarded by a USQRA panel, US (1) or US (2), will take effect in accordance with Article 7.8.5.
 - 9.9.3.1 Refer to Article 7.8.5 for what happens if NE decision made.
 - 9.9.3.2 For the procedure to follow in a decision of Not Eligible, refer to Article 4 Sport Class Not Eligible.

Comment 1 Article 9.9: This timeline for when Sport Class decisions take effect applies when the Athlete is being seen in the Athlete Evaluation process and also if the Athlete is being seen as part of a Protest.

Comment 2 Article 9.9: Tournament formats are more varied than a round robin or pool play that ends in semi-finals, or championship rounds. If another type of tournament format is used, the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier will consult with the tournament organizers to set the timeline for the close of Protest submission and the timeline for Protest decisions and when any change of Sport Class as a result of a Protest decision will take effect.

9.10 Protest Decision Notification

- 9.10.1 After the Protest Panel makes its decision, all relevant parties must be notified of the decision as soon as possible in accordance with Article 7.8.6 on informing decisions of an athlete's Sport Class and notification of third parties.
- 9.10.2 Notification of Protest Decision as a result of a self-protest:
 - 9.10.2.1 When the Classification Panel has made a decision, it is preferable that at least two members of the Classification Panel inform the Athlete of the panel's decision as soon as possible after the decision is made:
 - a. This means the Athlete should be informed of the protest decision by two of the Classification Personnel involved in the Protest decisions, for example, two Classifiers from the panel, or one Classifier and the PCR or EBM who served on the Protest.
 - b. If this is not logistically possible, to expedite informing the Athlete in a timely manner, one Classifier member of the Classification Panel may inform the Athlete.

9.10.2.2 The team and/or Athlete submitting the self-protest is provided with a copy of the Protest form including the written decision by the Protest Panel.

9.10.2.3 If the Protested Athlete wants a copy of this Classification evaluation form completed in the Protest, the Athlete must submit an Access to Athlete Classification Information Form. (Appendix B.6).

Comment 9.10.2.2 and 9.10.2.3: The Classification Evaluation Form is only available on submission of the Access to Athlete Classification Form. Because the Classification Form contains information of a confidential nature, it is only accessible to the Athlete who underwent the evaluation, not to the other Team who lodges a Protest.

9.10.3 Notification of Protest Decision as a result of a Protest by another team:

9.10.3.1 When the Classification Panel has made a decision, it is preferable that at least two members of the Classification Panel inform the Athlete of the panel's decision as soon as possible after the decision is taken in accordance with Article 7.8.6 on notification of third parties.

a. This means the Athlete should be informed of the protest decision by two of the Classification Personnel involved in the Protest decisions, for example, two Classifiers from the panel, or one Classifier and the PCR or EBM who served on the Protest.

b. If this is not logistically possible, to expedite informing the Athlete in a timely manner, one Classifier member of the Classification Panel may inform the Athlete.

9.10.3.2 The panel must not inform the Athlete which team or Athlete made the Protest.

9.10.3.3 The panel informs the Athlete or team representative submitting the Protest with a written explanation of the decision made in the appropriate section on the Protest form or in an attached document; and may verbally inform the team submitting the Protest as soon as is logistically possible. If time or circumstances do not permit a face-to-face meeting, the decision is given in written form on the USQRA Protest form.

Comment Article 9.10.3: Another team or Athlete may lodge a Protest and it is not logistically possible to complete the Protest at that tournament. In this situation, the Protest is carried over to the earliest available USQRA tournament the Athlete intends competing at and where an appropriate Classification Panel is present which meets the criteria to conduct the Protest evaluation. If the team or Athlete lodging the Protest is not present at the tournament where the Protest is completed and a team representative cannot be verbally informed in a meeting, written notification of the decision made is provided to the team or Athlete that lodged the Protest as soon as is logistically possible after the conclusion of the tournament.

10 Appeals

10.1 Definition and Purpose

10.1.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection of how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

10.1.2 If an Athlete or Team considers there have been procedural errors in the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, they may submit an Appeal.

10.2 Procedure

10.2.1 All other available remedies, including but not limited to Protests, must be exhausted before an Appeal can be made.

10.2.2 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable bylaws for the resolution of Appeals as published and implemented by the USQRA.

10.2.3 To obtain the applicable bylaws and procedures for submission of a Classification Appeal and the decision process, contact the USQRA President at: usqrapresident@gmail.com.

11 Classification Personnel

11.1 Definition

- 11.1.1 Classification Personnel include Classifiers and other persons, such as administrative assistants, acting with the authority of the USQRA Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier in relation to the management of Classification matters.
- 11.1.2 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of Classification Rules.
- 11.1.3 The appointment of USQRA Classification Personnel must be made in accordance with this Article.

11.2 Classifier

- 11.2.1 Classifiers are the USQRA officials responsible for Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 11.2.2 Classifiers must not allocate an official USQRA Sport Class individually with the following exception:
 - 11.2.2.1 Only a USQRA Classifier with a level 3 or 4 certification, who is not working as a member of a Classification Panel, may allocate a Sport Class and temporary Sport Class Status (T), which is provisional only.
- 11.2.3 Classifier responsibilities include:
 - 11.2.3.1 Comply with the USQRA Code of Conduct
 - 11.2.3.2 Comply with the USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct
 - 11.2.3.3 Work as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate Athlete Sport Class and Sport Class Status
 - 11.2.3.4 Work as a member of a Protest Panel to conduct a Protest evaluation and resolve an objection to an athlete's Sport Class
 - 11.2.3.5 Should not have any other duties or official responsibilities during a Competition that are not in connection with Classification
 - 11.2.3.6 Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting Classification appointments at Competitions
 - 11.2.3.7 Observe athletes during a Competition to monitor their ability to compete equitably in the current Sport Class
 - 11.2.3.8 Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing Classification duties for all athletes, regardless of team affiliation
 - 11.2.3.9 Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken, and be open to discussion with athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in accordance with the

Classification Rules for Athlete Evaluation, Protests and Appeals, and rules for the tournament or Competition

- 11.2.3.10 Maintain confidentiality of Athlete information whenever possible, according to the USQRA and IWRF Classification rules in compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code
- 11.2.3.11 Respect the Classification Rules by having an understanding of the theory and practice of the Classification Rules and assisting athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in learning the Classification Rules
- 11.2.3.12 Treat all Classification colleagues with respect including but not limited to:
 - a. Treat all Classification discussions with colleagues related to athletes as confidential information;
 - b. Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment;
 - c. Treat colleagues with professional dignity and courtesy, recognizing that it is inappropriate to criticize other Classifiers or officials in public; and
 - d. Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision-making process of other Classifiers and officials, whether or not in agreement.
- 11.2.3.13 Attend Classification meetings and training workshops at Competitions
- 11.2.3.14 Seek self-development through study of the sport, Classification Rules, and mentoring less-experienced Classifiers and Classifier Trainees
- 11.2.3.15 Assist in Classifier training and certification as requested by the USQRA Head of Classification and/or the Training and Development Coordinator (for example, organizing and teaching workshops; mentoring Classifiers and Trainees working with a Classification Panel and with those who are teaching workshops)

Comment Article 11.2.3: Classifiers may meet from time to time face to face, by conference call or videoconference, to discuss the Classification System and Rules. In addition, Classifiers may informally engage with athletes about the Classification System to gather feedback and to educate athletes, coaches, and team representatives about Classification. Consequently, Classifiers may offer proposals to changes in the Classification Rules through the Head of Classification and the USQRA Classification Committee within the guidelines of the USQRA and IWRF Classification Rules.

11.3 Classification Panel

- 11.3.1 A group of Classifiers, appointed by the USQRA, to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the USQRA Classification Rules.
- 11.3.2 A valid USQRA Classification Panel must include at least three certified classifiers to allocate Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

11.4 Head of Classification

11.4.1 The Head of Classification is selected by the USQRA Classification Committee; and is responsible for all direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of national Classification matters for Wheelchair Rugby.

11.4.2 Head of Classification Responsibilities include:

11.4.2.1 Administer and coordinate Classification matters related to Wheelchair Rugby, including serving as a liaison to the USQRA Board;

11.4.2.2 Communicate with Sectional Head Classifiers for Classification on matters relating to sectional and national Classification;

11.4.2.3 Provide advice and assistance to the local organizing committees at USQRA sanctioned events to ensure that the necessary arrangements are made for travel, accommodations and working logistics for Classifiers before, during and after the event;

11.4.2.4 Appoint Classifiers for the appropriate composition of Classification Panels and Protest Panels for all tournaments during the season and during post season including the National Tournament in consultation with Sectional Head Classifiers;

11.4.2.5 Act as Chief Classifier at National DI and DII Championships or appoint the appropriate Chief Classifiers;

11.4.2.6 Examine the current state of Classification in the sport on a regular basis;

11.4.2.7 Evaluate current USQRA Classification Rules and IWRF Classification Rules and provide recommendations for improvements and/or revisions of the USQRA Classification Rules on a regular basis;

11.4.2.8 Oversee the writing, revision and publication of the USQRA Classification Manual in accordance with the policies and procedures of the USQRA and the IWRF;

11.4.2.9 Inform Classifiers of any changes in the Classification Rules and consult with Classifiers for feedback on changes in Classification Rules that may affect the sport rules;

11.4.2.10 Prepare, submit and monitor a Classification budget for USQRA annually, or as requested;

11.4.2.11 Organize and conduct Classifier training and certification, and/or appoint an individual to serve as the Training and Development Coordinator on the Classification Committee to organize and guide Classifier training and certification;

11.4.2.12 Appoint an individual as the Database Administrator to maintain and update the database and/or maintain and regularly update a secure Classification database, if necessary, to ensure Classification records are accurate;

11.4.2.13 Liaise with USQRA Classification Committee Secretary in maintaining and regularly updating the Classification Master List or in the delegation of this task to the Database Administrator; and

11.4.2.14 Additional duties and responsibilities may be assumed as needed.

11.4.3 Term length

11.4.3.1 The term length is four years; an individual may serve consecutive terms and there are no term limits.

11.4.3.2 When a new Head of Classification is selected, the USQRA Classification Committee should notify the USQRA Board of Directors so that communication with the Board of Directors and the Head of Classification is maintained.

11.4.3.3 When a Head of Classification is ready to step down, the last year of his/her term should overlap with the first year of the incoming Head of Classification.

- a. This overlapping term structure allows a smooth transition, including transfer of knowledge, continuity of communication, and continuance of a professional relationship with the USQRA Classification Committee and the USQRA Board of Directors.

11.5 Sectional Head Classifier

11.5.1 The Sectional Head Classifier is selected by the USQRA Classification Committee to communicate between teams and Classifiers on matters relating to Classification and Classification opportunities in the respective section.

11.5.2 A Section Head Classifier must be an USQRA Certified Level 3 or 4 Classifier, who is active in the section and nationally.

11.5.3 Sectional Head Classifier Responsibilities include:

11.5.3.1 Liaise with the USQRA Regional Assistant Commissioners (RACs) and communicate with other Classifiers within the respective section;

11.5.3.2 Communicate with the Head of Classification and/or the Training and Development Coordinator to further sectional Classifier development;

11.5.3.3 Assist the USQRA Head of Classification in any matters relating to Classification;

11.5.3.4 Annually request verification of logbooks of Classifiers within the section; submit relevant information to the Training and Development Coordinator to facilitate the update of the Classifier Database; and

11.5.3.5 May make recommendations for certifications at any USQRA tournaments where Classification takes place. Certification is dependent on approval of the USQRA Head of Classification:

- a. If the Sectional Head Classifier is a USQRA Level 4 Classifier, he/she may recommend Certification for USQRA Level 2, 3 and 4.

- b. If the Sectional Head Classifier is a USQRA Level 3 Classifier Certification, he/she may recommend certification for USQRA Level 2 and 3.

11.5.4 Additional duties and responsibilities may be assumed as needed.

11.5.5 Term length

- 11.5.5.1 The term length is four years; an individual may serve consecutive terms and there are no term limits.

11.6 Chief Classifier

11.6.1 The Chief Classifier is appointed by the USQRA Head of Classification for a specific Competition.

11.6.2 Chief Classifier responsibilities include:

- 11.6.2.1 Responsible for all direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for a specific Competition or tournament;
- 11.6.2.2 Liaise with organizing committees and teams before a tournament to identify and notify athletes who require evaluation for allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
- 11.6.2.3 Liaise with organizing committees before a tournament to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers (for example, working space, equipment, office supplies, transportation, lodging and meals);
- 11.6.2.4 Consult with Classifiers and may observe Athlete Evaluation to ensure that Classification Rules are applied appropriately during a specific tournament, such as Athlete Evaluation and Protests;
- 11.6.2.5 Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels, and observe their Classification Competencies and proficiencies;
- 11.6.2.6 Carry out tournament specific duties for the management of Classification at a tournament including pre-competition, competition and post-competition. Refer to Article 17 Tournament Classification Administration for specific Chief Classifier Competition Duties;
- 11.6.2.7 Depending on the type of tournament, the Chief Classifier may also participate as a member of the Classification Panel; and
- 11.6.2.8 Additional duties and responsibilities may be assumed as needed.

11.7 Trainee

11.7.1 A Trainee is an individual who is in the process of formal Classifier education and training. The Classification training may be at the basic informational level for general education, introductory training for entry-level Classifier Certification, or more advanced training necessary to progress in certification level.

- 11.7.2 To qualify to enroll in basic level training to become a USQRA Classifier, interested individuals must submit the USQRA Classifier Application form (Appendix D.1) and any other requested documents to confirm credentials and prerequisites to the USQRA Head of Classification or her/his designee for Classifier Training.
- 11.7.3 A Trainee who is not yet certified by the USQRA as a Classifier may not be appointed as a member of a Classification Panel at a USQRA Competition.
 - 11.7.3.1 A Trainee is unable to allocate a USQRA Sport Class.
- 11.7.4 Trainees should have no responsibilities as a member of a team at the event where they participate in Classification training. Having no such official duties outside of Classification:
 - 11.7.4.1 facilitates management of any perceived or actual Conflict of Interest; and
 - 11.7.4.2 allows the Trainee to participate fully in Classification training and strive to achieve USQRA Classifier Certification or advance in USQRA Classifier Certification.
- 11.7.5 Trainee responsibilities include:
 - 11.7.5.1 Accurately and honestly represent his/her qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification;
 - 11.7.5.2 Active participation and observation to learn Classification Rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies in Athlete Evaluation for Certification; and
 - 11.7.5.3 Attend Classification meetings, seminars, and training workshops.

11.8 Player Classification Representative (PCR)

- 11.8.1 The Player Classification Representative (PCR), formerly known as a Player Classification Board Member (PCB), is a Wheelchair Rugby Athlete, or former Athlete, who understands and can explain the Classification Rules from the perspective of the Athlete.
- 11.8.2 The Player Classification Representative (PCR) must appreciate and be able to explain the Classification process and the unique characteristics and differences of the specific Sport Classes to other athletes.
- 11.8.3 At the start of most tournaments, the Chief Classifier in consultation with the Classification Panel will select appropriate Player Classification Representatives (PCRs) and invite these individuals to participate in Athlete Evaluation, when requested and when available.
- 11.8.4 Player Classification Representative (PCR) responsibilities include:
 - 11.8.4.1 Explain the Classification Rules in terms understandable to the athletes;
 - 11.8.4.2 Be trusted and respected by the athletes in Wheelchair Rugby;

- 11.8.4.3 Observe the USQRA Code of Conduct and keep information related to athletes confidential;
- 11.8.4.4 Be diplomatic and tactful in communication with athletes, coaches, Athlete Support Personnel and the Classification Panel;
- 11.8.4.5 Be available to observe during Athlete Evaluation, and provide expertise in situations such as sport-specific assessment, on-court observation, Protests, and the development and implementation of new Classification Rules;
- 11.8.4.6 Serves in an advisory capacity; the PCR will not have a vote in the actual determination of an athlete's Sport Class; and
- 11.8.4.7 Attend Classification meetings if available; the PCR may participate in Classification meetings, but will not have a vote.

11.9 Classifiers from other Nations

- 11.9.1 A Classifier from another nation who has at least an IWRF certification level 2 Zone or level 2 International, or a comparable level of national experience, may wish to attend a USQRA sanctioned event for advanced Classification training.
- 11.9.2 The Head of Classification of the Classifier's nation, the Head of Classification for the IWRF zone or the IWRF Head of Classification must contact the USQRA Head of Classification to request such a training opportunity for the Classifier. The USQRA Head of Classification has the final approval.
- 11.9.3 This individual may participate as a Trainee and should not be an appointed member of the Classification Panel, except in exceptional situations.
- 11.9.4 The individual or their nation is responsible for any costs associated with travel and accommodation, even if an exceptional situation may allow the individual to assume an official role in the panel.

Comment Article 11.9: Exceptional circumstances whereby a Trainee with an IWRF certification as a level 2 Zone or level 2 International Classifier, or a comparable level of experience in another nation may be appointed to a USQRA panel may include instances where a USQRA Classifier becomes ill or has travel cancellations or delays at the last minute. As a result, a valid panel would not be possible. In such an exceptional situation, the Chief Classifier may appoint this individual as a member of the panel with the approval of the USQRA Head of Classification and pursue some level of reimbursement if appointment to a panel is required.

12 Entry Criteria for Classifier Training

12.1 Qualifications

- 12.1.1 Certain professional criteria must be met for an individual to be considered for training and certification as a USQRA Classifier.

12.1.1.1 Medical and/or health professionals with formal education and professional certification in their specific professional area include:

- a. Medical doctors
- b. Physical therapists
- c. Occupational therapists

12.2 Professional Experience

12.2.1 Experience in the evaluation and testing of individuals with Impairments and Activity Limitations most common in wheelchair rugby, specifically:

- a. impaired muscle strength,
- b. limb loss, and
- c. coordination impairments due to spinal cord injury and other neuromuscular and musculoskeletal conditions.

12.2.2 Competence in manual muscle testing of the upper and lower extremities and trunk

12.3 Sport Related Experience

12.3.1 Knowledge of Wheelchair Rugby or other wheelchair sports

12.3.2 Willingness to increase knowledge through taking part in the sport

12.3.3 Independent learning through a variety of forms of self-education, such as viewing video of Wheelchair Rugby

13 Classifier Training

13.1 Entry Level

13.1.1 The USQRA offers formal entry level training and education to ensure Classifiers obtain entry level Classifier Competencies:

13.1.1.1 Theoretical education delivered through entry-level training workshops.

13.1.1.2 Application of knowledge and practical education through hands-on training with a Classification Panel.

13.2 Advanced

13.2.1 The USQRA offers advanced training and continuing education to ensure Classifiers obtain advanced level Classifier Competencies and to maintain Classifier Competencies:

13.2.1.1 Theoretical and practical education delivered through advanced workshops or continuing education seminars.

13.2.1.2 Methods of delivery may include face-to-face, hands on and online.

13.2.1.3 Participation in:

- a. Classification administration and management, and/or
- b. Classifier Training and Certification, and/or
- c. Classifier Mentorship.

14 Classifier Certification Process

14.1 General Principles

- 14.1.1 The USQRA certifies Classifiers who have successfully completed Classifier training and meet the competencies relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation for Athletes with Physical Impairments, according to the rules of the USQRA.
- 14.1.2 Classifier Certification verifies that an individual has met the competencies and proficiencies to practice as a USQRA Classifier.
- 14.1.3 There are four levels of USQRA certification, which reflect training and education, and experience. There are specific competencies for certification at each level.

14.2 Level 1 Classifier

- 14.2.1 Has a novice level of certification given to individuals who qualify to enter Classifier training and has completed the basic entry-level education and training.
- 14.2.2 May participate in the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status as a supervised member of a USQRA panel.

14.3 Level 2 Classifier

- 14.3.1 Acquired contact hours related to wheelchair rugby over a 1-year period.
- 14.3.2 May require supervision of more experienced level 3 or 4 Classifiers to assign a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

14.4 Level 3 Classifier

- 14.4.1 Acquired contact hours in Classification over a 2-year period and completed advanced training in Athlete Evaluation and Protest procedures.
- 14.4.2 Participated in assignment of Sport Class and Sport Class Status with no supervision necessary.
- 14.4.3 May require minimal consultation or supervision from more experienced Classifiers in decision of Eligibility, and in Protests and/or Appeals.
- 14.4.4 Participated in administrative and management roles.

14.5 Level 4 Classifier

- 14.5.1 Completed formal advanced training in all Classification topics, including rules, policy and procedures, and Classifier education and training.
- 14.5.2 Achieved a high level of experience as a Classifier, participates in Classification administrative and management roles, and/or education and training roles.

- 14.5.3 Continues to serve as a member of a Classification Panel at invitational, regional, sectional, national or international tournaments (if also IWRF certified), and/or Classification administration and management, Classifier education and training and/or mentoring of Classifiers.

Comment Article 14: Being active as a Classifier is important to ensure competencies are adequate to provide appropriate Classification services. If inactive, a Classifier may undergo a reduction in certification level and be required to undertake retraining and/or recertification. Refer to Article 14.10 of these rules.

14.6 Classifier Competencies

Minimal criteria for certification and advancement include, but are not limited to:

14.6.1 Level 1 Competencies

- 14.6.1.1 Sign and comply with the USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct;
- 14.6.1.2 Comply with the USQRA Code of Ethics/Conduct;
- 14.6.1.3 Attend a basic Classification workshop;
- 14.6.1.4 Obtain and become familiar with Classification manual;
- 14.6.1.5 Experience with neuromuscular evaluation;
- 14.6.1.6 Wheelchair sports experience not necessary; and
- 14.6.1.7 Begin a logbook documenting rugby experience and activities.

14.6.2 Level 2 Competencies

- 14.6.2.1 Performs a complete bench test independently and explains findings accurately to experienced level 3 and 4 Classifiers;
- 14.6.2.2 Gives a basic explanation of bench test findings to athletes and Athlete Support Personnel with another level 3 or 4 Classifier present;
- 14.6.2.3 Seeks guidance and assistance when needed; and
- 14.6.2.4 Demonstrates minimum of one-year contact hours with rugby.

14.6.3 Level 3 Competencies

- 14.6.3.1 Performs complete Athlete Evaluation process (bench test, sport-specific tests and observation assessment) independently and provides a complete explanation of findings to Classification Panel, athletes, coaches, and team representatives;
- 14.6.3.2 Active at a national level and a minimum of two years experience as a level 2 Classifier;
- 14.6.3.3 Instructs a basic Classification workshop for level 1 and 2 Classifiers, supervised by a level 3 or 4 Classifier if logistically possible;
- 14.6.3.4 Participates in a Protest and/or in making a decision of not eligible (NE);
- 14.6.3.5 Seeks guidance when necessary; and

14.6.3.6 Explains the procedures in Athlete Evaluation including Eligibility requirements, Eligibility test and Minimum Impairment Criteria, Protest procedure and the procedure following a not eligible decision to the Classification Panel, Athlete and appropriate team representative.

14.6.4 Level 4 Competencies

14.6.4.1 Participates in a Protest and/or awarding a Sport Class not eligible (NE) and completes the required procedures following a not eligible decision;

14.6.4.2 Attends, presents, or develops an advanced workshop; or is actively engaged in Classification related research;

14.6.4.3 Active at a national level for a minimum of three years;

14.6.4.4 Acts as Chief Classifier at an invitational, sectional or national tournament;

14.6.4.5 Demonstrates leadership skills in areas related to Classification, such as administration and management of Classification, database administration, Classification research, mentorship and/or supervision, training and education of Classifiers; and

14.6.4.6 Participates in Classification Committee meetings held at USQRA tournaments or meetings through other technology platforms such as conference calls or videoconferencing when logistically possible.

Comment Article 14.6: Once a USQRA Classifier achieves certification Level 3 or 4, the Classifier may pursue certification as an IWRF international Classifier, with the endorsement of the USQRA Head of Classification. Refer to the criteria for becoming an international classifier in the IWRF Classification Manual available at: www.iwrf.com. The USQRA Classifier should work together with the USQRA Head of Classification and the USQRA Board to secure financial assistance to assist with international training expenses.

14.7 Evaluation of Competency

14.7.1 Classifiers submit their logbooks for review of proficiency in specific competencies to the USQRA Head of Classification or respective Sectional Head Classifier on an annual basis, or as requested. The specific date or time period is determined by the USQRA Head of Classification.

14.7.2 Classifiers are evaluated in specific areas as identified on the Classifier Certification form. Refer to Appendix D.3 Classifier Certification and Development Forms.

14.7.3 To advance in certification level, the Classifier must meet the competencies for the respective level, be recommended by a Level 3 or Level 4 Classifier, and approved by the USQRA Head of Classification.

14.7.4 Classifiers must demonstrate attainment of any required competencies and/or progress of any competencies requiring improvement identified in the Classifier Certification development plan in order to advance to the next certification level Refer to Appendix D.3 Classifier Certification and Development Forms.

14.8 Approval of Certification

- 14.8.1 A level 3 Classifier may recommend certification for individuals who are candidates for level 1 or 2 certification. A level 4 Classifier may recommend certification for those who are candidates for advancing to levels 1 - 4.
- 14.8.2 Certification as a USQRA Classifier at each level is subject to the approval of the USQRA Head of Classification.

14.9 Notification of Certification

- 14.9.1 At each tournament where the Classifier is being evaluated, the Classifier should provide a copy of his/her previous certification form in order to be assessed by the Classifier trainer or evaluator appointed to conduct certification and training.
- 14.9.2 At each tournament where the Classifier is evaluated, the Classifier should receive written and verbal feedback using the Classifier Certification form (Appendix D.3 Classifier Certification and Development Forms).
- 14.9.3 The Classifier Certification form, including an action plan for addressing identified competencies requiring improvement, is to be completed by the Chief Classifier, the Classifier trainer or the designated evaluator. (Appendix D.3 Classifier Certification and Development Forms).
- 14.9.4 If a Classifier is a candidate for advancement in certification level and there are any competencies listed in the development/action plan still requiring improvement but not critical for advancement in certification level, these competencies must be carried through on the certification form to the next assessment.
- 14.9.5 At a tournament where the Classifier is being evaluated but is not a candidate to advance in certification level, the Classifier trainer or designated evaluator may provide a pathway to further develop competencies for the next certification level.
- 14.9.6 The designated evaluator will discuss achievements regarding the Classifier's development/action plan. If the evaluator believes specific competencies requiring further proficiency have been met, the action plan can be signed off and dated for each competency completed and documented for future assessment and potential advancement in certification level.
- 14.9.7 Not all individuals attending training or Classifiers appointed as members of a Classification Panel at an event, who are candidates for certification or advancement in certification, are guaranteed to receive that certification level.
 - 14.9.7.1 Even though the Classifier may meet the recommended abilities to move forward, there may be identified deficiencies that must be improved in order to demonstrate proficiency in the required competencies to obtain certification at the higher level.
 - 14.9.7.2 The Classifier will be notified of the pathway to further develop these competencies and the requirements to maintain and/or advance certification.

14.9.7.3 It is the responsibility of the Classifier to formulate an action plan for improving any areas requiring further development or deficiencies that must be improved.

14.9.7.4 Classifiers should receive assistance in developing their action plan from their respective Sectional Head Classifier, the USQRA Training and Development Coordinator or from the USQRA Head of Classification or his/her designee.

14.10 Recertification and Retraining

14.10.1 Being active as a Classifier is important to ensure competencies are adequate to provide Classification services.

14.10.2 If a Classifier is inactive for a four-year period, the Classifier may decrease a level in certification if recommended by the USQRA Classification Committee and the USQRA Head of Classification.

14.10.2.1 If inactive for a four-year period, the Classifier must develop an action plan with his/her respective Sectional Head of Classification, Training and Development Coordinator, or USQRA Head of Classification to assure competencies have been maintained and, if justified, for restoration of certification at the previous level.

14.10.2.2 A plan of action developed with the Sectional Head of Classification or the Training and Development Coordinator is subject to the approval of the USQRA Head of Classification.

14.10.2.3 If the Classifier has been active at the international level but has not been active in the USQRA, the Head of Classification may consider this activity satisfactory for maintenance of the USQRA Certification level.

15 Classifier Code of Conduct

15.1 General Principles

15.1.1 The integrity of Classification rests on the ethical conduct and professional behavior of each Classifier.

15.1.2 When acting as a Classifier or Trainee Classifier, Classification Personnel must adhere to the behavioral and ethical standards set out in the USQRA Code of Conduction and the USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct.

Refer to Appendix D.2, USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct and <http://usqra.org/>, USQRA Code of Conduct.

15.2 Roles and Responsibilities

15.2.1 The role of the Classifier is to act as a neutral and impartial evaluator in determining an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

15.2.2 Classifiers must avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at Competitions where they are acting as Classifiers.

15.2.2.1 For example, when acting as a Classifier in that same Competition, a Classifier must not act as a Technical Official, such as a referee or other sport official; or as a member of a team, such as a team support person or an equipment manager.

15.2.3 By accepting the role and responsibilities of a Classifier, individuals agree to comply with the USQRA Code of Conduct and the USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct and consent to disciplinary action in cases of non-compliance.

15.3 Management of Conflict of Interest

15.3.1 Classifiers must declare any pre-existing personal or professional relationship(s), which may give rise to the perception or possibility of that relationship affecting their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when acting as a Classifier.

15.3.2 The USQRA Head of Classification has the discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest and to put in place methods for management of conflicts of interest.

15.4 Investigation of Potential Breach in Code of Conduct

15.4.1 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to the USQRA.

15.4.2 If the USQRA receives such a report it will investigate the report and if appropriate take disciplinary measures.

15.5 Consequences of Breach in Code of Conduct

15.5.1 Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them for non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct may include a variety of sanctions such as:

15.5.1.1 verbal or written reprimand; and/or

15.5.1.2 reducing or removing their certification as a Classifier in Wheelchair Rugby.

16 Classification Administration and Development

16.1 USQRA Classification Committee

16.1.1 The USQRA Classification Committee (USQRA CC) is responsible to advise the USQRA Board and the USQRA on Classification matters. These responsibilities include:

16.1.1.1 recommend and develop policies and procedure and guidelines related to Classification including the Classification System, delivery of Classification services, and Classifier training and certification;

16.1.1.2 on-going review and revision of Classification Rules, and policy and procedures related to Athlete Evaluation and Protests on a regular basis;

16.1.1.3 advise the Head of Classification in selection of Classifiers to participate in USQRA sanctioned events;

16.1.1.4 assist in ensuring the USQRA remains compliant with IPC Classification Code; and

16.1.1.5 Any other related administration of Classification within the structure of the USQRA.

16.1.2 Refer to Figure 1 USQRA Classification Committee for the governance structure and membership of the USQRA CC.

16.2 Responsibilities of Committee Members

16.2.1 Head of Classification

16.2.1.1 Direct Classification administration;

16.2.1.2 Chair the USQRA Classification Committee;

16.2.1.3 Coordinates Classification Panels for regular season and post-season tournaments, including assigning Chief Classifiers;

16.2.1.4 Obtain official team rosters from the USQRA after the USQRA deadline for submitting official team rosters, as logistics permit.

Comment 16.2.1.4: The timely receipt of roster information helps the Head of Classification determine in which geographical areas Classification and/or Classifier training is most needed. Rosters may be used to select appropriate Classification Panels to conduct Athlete Classification and/or conduct Classifier training at the most essential tournaments. Logistics do not always provide for distribution of rosters in a timely manner and receipt of this information may not occur until tournaments and panels have been selected.

16.2.1.5 Communicate with appropriate contacts in each Section to ensure the appropriate Classification resources are available;

16.2.1.6 Liaise with the Database Administrator to update and maintain the classifier database annually including classifier reimbursement, contact information and certification levels;

16.2.1.7 Maintain the bank account for the Classification Committee;

- 16.2.1.8 Interact with the USQRA Board as needed to assist with tax information;
- 16.2.1.9 Collect and process USQRA Classification fees; and
- 16.2.1.10 Process and allocate stipends and reimbursement to classifiers as indicated.

16.2.2 Secretary

- 16.2.2.1 Assist communication between USQRA Classifiers;
- 16.2.2.2 Maintain and regularly update the Classification Master List or delegate this task to the Database Administrator or another designee;
- 16.2.2.3 Take minutes at the annual Classification meeting at the USQRA National Tournament and communicates with the USQRA Classification Committee as necessary;
- 16.2.2.4 Collect minutes from all official meetings within one month of the date of meeting and distribute as necessary; and
- 16.2.2.5 Submit a regular report as requested by the Secretary of the USQRA Board for distribution to the membership in the USQRA newsletter.

16.2.3 Database Administrator

- 16.2.3.1 Update and maintain the USQRA Database and Master List:
 - a. Both the USQRA Classification database and master list contain sensitive Classification data about Athletes with a USQRA Sport Class and may also include international players who are or who have been active in the USQRA.
 - b. The database is a compilation of all Classification forms.
 - c. The master list is an alphabetized list of all athletes who have a USQRA Sport Class.
- 16.2.3.2 Liaise with the Head of Classification to prepare the master list at least biannually to post on the USQRA website and provide the master list to the USQRA Board as requested;
 - a. The master list should be updated pre-season and prior to post-season as logistically possible.
- 16.2.3.3 Liaise with the Head of Classification before and during the rugby season to identify athletes on each team who need to be classified either prior to post-season or during the post-season tournaments;
- 16.2.3.4 Recommend improvements to the Classification database as needed; and
- 16.2.3.5 Provide appropriate reports from the Classification database on request, for example, tournament summaries for the USQRA Commissioner to post on the website.

Comment Article 16.2.3: The USQRA Database administrator may be allocated an annual stipend by the USQRA to compensate for the time required for regular maintenance of the database. This stipend was approved by the USQRA Membership April 2017, Effective Date 2017-2018 season.

16.2.4 Sectional Head Classifier

16.2.4.1 Serve in a coordination role for the geographic section;

16.2.4.2 Liaise with the Head of Classification to organize Classification Panels needed at tournaments taking place in the relevant section; and

16.2.4.3 Communicate with teams in the Section to answer questions and help with Classification concerns.

Comment Article 16.2.4: The USQRA divides the USA into four geographic sections. A level 3 or 4 Classifier, living in the respective section, is appointed to this position for a four-year term to help organize Classification Panels and communication with teams in the specific section. It is preferable that the Sectional Head Classifier lives in the Section, but if the individual moves to another section and no one is available, the Head of Classification may appoint a Classifier who lives in another section in the interim. This availability may be assessed at the start of each season.

16.2.5 Player Classification Representative (PCR):

16.2.5.1 A current or former Athlete appointed to this position serves in an advisory capacity for areas relating to the Classification in the sport; including Classification Rules evaluation, development, and, implementation of Classification Rules, policies and procedures;

16.2.5.2 Liaise with athletes and provide explanations, from an athlete's perspective, regarding Classification matters and issues;

16.2.5.3 Develop and maintain knowledge of Classification Rules, policies and procedures through participation with the Classification Committee and attendance at Classification workshops and involvement in local, sectional and national Classification; and

16.2.5.4 Serve as a Player Classification Representative (PCR) at USQRA invitational, Sectional, and National tournaments, when in attendance.

16.2.6 Training and Development Coordinator

16.2.6.1 On-going development and evaluation of training and education programs for the certification of Classifiers;

16.2.6.2 On-going development and evaluation of curriculum for introductory and continuing education, such as introductory and advanced workshops and relevant web-based resources;

16.2.6.3 Liaise with the Head of Classification to appoint Classifier trainers or evaluators for all USQRA Classification clinics;

16.2.6.4 Liaise with the tournament Chief Classifier at tournaments where Classifier training will take place to ensure the tournament report includes the type of

training that occurs, such as basic or advanced, and a list of all Classifiers participating in training and those who are certified;

16.2.6.5 Liaise with the Chief Classifier and Head of Classification to allocate Classification Certification levels, and follow up with Classifiers who require further development;

16.2.6.6 Liaise with the Chief Classifier and the Head of Classification to ensure copies of certification forms and action plans are provided to Classifiers before the conclusion of a tournament, or if not logistically possible, through electronic format afterwards;

16.2.6.7 Maintain and regularly update a classifier database to track Classifier activity and certifications in cooperation with the Database Administrator, or liaise with the Head of Classification to designate an individual to work with the Database Administrator to maintain and update the classifier database; and

16.2.6.8 Update and maintain the USQRA Classifier Listserv, an automated mailing list manager for email communication between USQRA certified Classifiers; or designate an individual to update and maintain the Listserv.

16.2.7 Policy and Procedure Coordinator

16.2.7.1 A Classifier certified by both USQRA and IWRF who has knowledge of international and national classification rules through participation with IWRF and USQRA Classification.

16.2.7.2 Inform the Classification Committee and the USQRA Board on changes in international Classification Rules and advises on relevant policies and procedures appropriate at the national level.

16.2.7.3 Liaise with the Head of Classification and Classification Committee in preparing proposals for relevant rules changes and in drafting changes to the USQRA Classification Rules, as required.

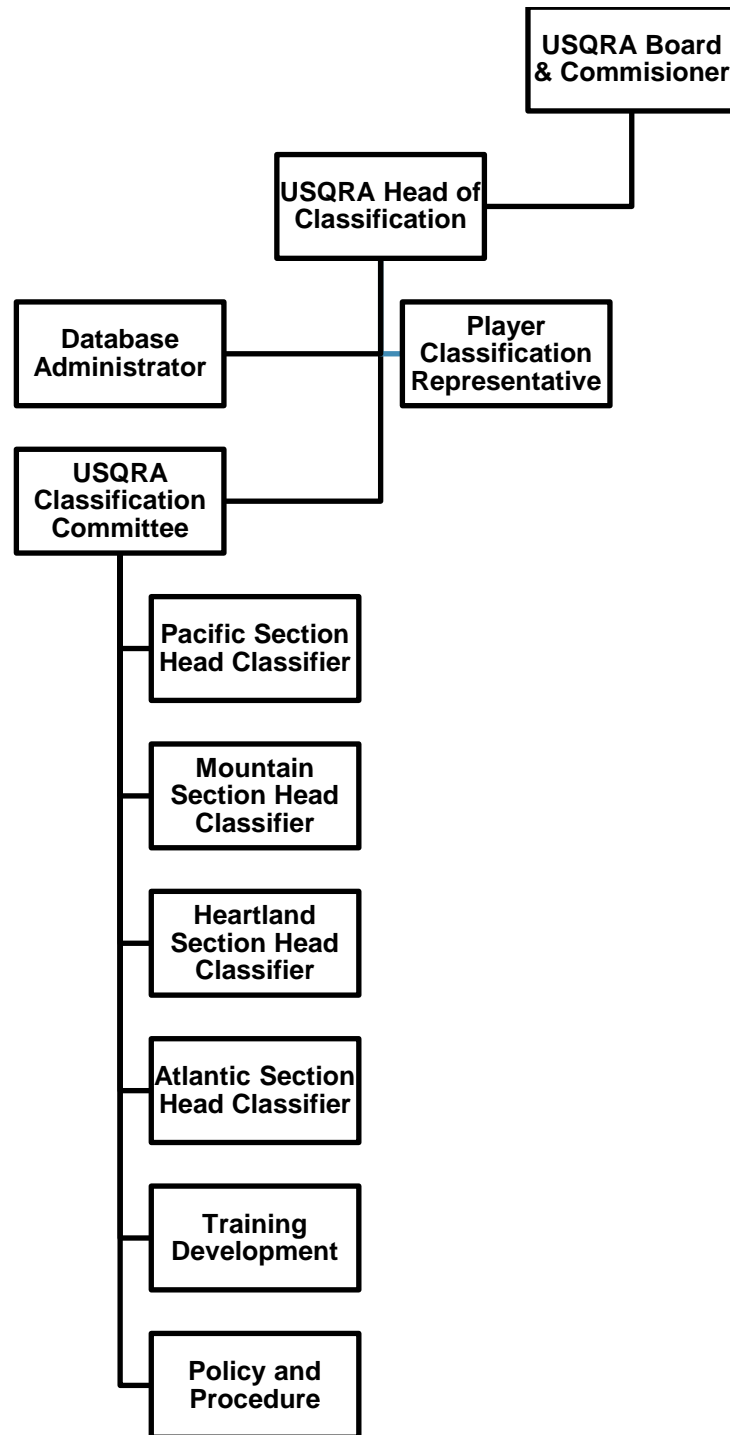


Figure 1 USQRA Classification Committee

17 Tournament Classification Administration

17.1 Tournament Classification Panel Requirements

17.1.1 To award an USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status to an Athlete, the criteria for a USQRA Classification Panel must be met.

17.1.2 The Classification Panel must include three Classifiers, with the composition of the Classification Panel depending on the type of tournament according to this Article.

17.2 Post Season Tournaments

17.2.1 These tournaments include Regionals, Sectionals and DI Nationals and DII Nationals

17.2.2 Panel Requirements for Regionals and Sectionals:

17.2.2.1 Minimum of one panel with three Classifiers;

17.2.2.2 All levels of Classifiers may participate; and

17.2.2.3 A level four Classifier should be on each panel, if logistically possible.

17.2.3 Panel Requirements for Nationals:

17.2.3.1 Even if USQRA Division I and Division II Nationals are conducted in one common location, Division I and II are conducted as two separate tournaments;

17.2.3.2 Two panels should be appointed - one for Division I and one for Division II;

17.2.3.3 Two level four Classifiers should be appointed so that each panel has a level four Classifier as the panel leader, if logistically possible; and

17.2.3.4 A Chief Classifier should be appointed to serve in an administrative role for both the DI and DII tournaments.

Comment Article 17.2.3: If the USQRA National Tournament includes more than one Division, and more than one Classification Panel, the panel appointed for one division may serve as the Protest Panel for another division. For example, a Classification Panel appointed for Division I may serve as the Protest Panel for Division II, and the Classification Panel appointed for Division II may serve as the Protest Panel for Division I.

17.3 Invitational Tournaments

17.3.1 These tournaments may also be referred to as local tournaments and include any tournament hosted by individual teams or local organizers where a Classification Panel is present.

17.3.1.1 These tournaments may be sanctioned by USQRA for Classification.

17.3.1.2 Teams participating are from the same area or region of the country.

17.3.2 Panel Requirements

- 17.3.2.1 A minimum of one panel of three Classifiers;
- 17.3.2.2 The Chief Classifier may serve as a member of the panel;
- 17.3.2.3 All levels of Classifiers may participate;
- 17.3.2.4 A level four Classifier should be present, if logistically possible; and
- 17.3.2.5 A level three Classifier may be Chief Classifier.

Comment Article 17.3: The goal of the USQRA Classification Committee is to provide Classification opportunities at a tournament in each USQRA section prior to the post season to provide athletes with a USQRA Sport Class before entering post-season play. If a large number of athletes require Classification, and funding and Classifier availability allows, more than one panel may be appointed to an invitational tournament.

17.4 Classification Stipend

- 17.4.1 Each Classifier serving on a USQRA authorized panel will receive the current stipend as stipulated by the USQRA to defray expenses for meals and other incidental expenses.
- 17.4.2 The local tournament organizers or the USQRA should cover travel and accommodation costs, depending on the type of tournament.
- 17.4.3 The Classification Database Administrator should receive an annual stipend to compensate for the time required to enter and maintain the large amount of Classification data throughout the season and post-season, and to defray expenses associated with updates of software and maintenance of personal hardware.

Comment Article 17.4: In April 2005, the USQRA membership approved a stipend for Classifiers at all tournaments, Effective Date 2005-2006 season. Adjustments to the stipend are made from time to time.

Refer to Appendix C.8 Classifier Guideline to Tournament Logistics.

17.5 Pre-Competition Administration

- 17.5.1 The USQRA Head of Classification, Chief Classifier and Database Administrator have particular administrative duties prior to, during and after a Competition.
- 17.5.2 Head of Classification Tasks Two to Three months prior to Competition
 - 17.5.2.1 Announces a call to Classifiers for availability as soon as tournaments hosting Classification are identified
 - 17.5.2.2 Appoints the Chief Classifier for the Competition
 - 17.5.2.3 Provides local organizing committee with Chief Classifier contact details
 - 17.5.2.4 Liaise with Chief Classifier to select Classification Panel members

Comment Article 17.5.2: If the time frame cannot be met for the appointment of a Chief Classifier, the Head of Classification will provide the tournament organizers with the contact information for the Chief Classifier and Classification Panel members as soon as is logistically possible.

17.5.3 Chief Classifier Tasks One to Two Months Prior to Competition

- 17.5.3.1 Work with USQRA Head of Classification and local organizers to provide facilities and support infrastructure for Classification
- 17.5.3.2 Confirm Classification Panel members travel arrangements
- 17.5.3.3 Notify tournament director and/or local organizers of selected Classifiers, provide contact information, and ensure the tournament director and/or designee makes arrangements for event transportation in accordance with date and time for the beginning of the Classification Evaluation Period and for departure from the event when Classification duties are concluded
- 17.5.3.4 Liaison with USQRA, tournament director and/or organizing committee for collecting all Team and Athlete entries well in advance of Competition dates
- 17.5.3.5 Notify the Database Administrator of the teams attending the tournament, and request most recent Classification information for all players on all teams
- 17.5.3.6 Communicate with the USQRA Database Administrator for identification of athletes needing Athlete Evaluation and any documentation and data needed for Classification
- 17.5.3.7 Double-check Athlete entry event information with Classification Master List and database to verify Sport Class and Sport Class Status
- 17.5.3.8 Identify athletes requiring Athlete Evaluation:
 - a. Athletes with New (N) and Review (R) Sport Class Status;
 - b. Athletes with review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Status for three year recheck - US (1) or US (2) Sport Class; and
 - c. Athletes under Protest.
- 17.5.3.9 Establish date and time for Classification evaluation and provide team representatives and tournament director with the following:
 - a. Classification schedule for distribution to competing teams;
 - b. URL address of the USQRA Classification Rules; and
 - c. Competition rules specific to Classification for the tournament sent in a document electronically.
- 17.5.3.10 Provide tournament director and/or local organizers a list of required facilities to conduct Classification:
 - a. Needed facilities and location for Athlete Evaluation, such as the number of Classification rooms to be reserved for the entire tournament, appropriate signage and directions to the Classification area (one room if one panel, two rooms if two panels)
 - b. Facilities and a room for administration of Classification
 - c. Facilities and rooms for Classifier training, if scheduled

d. Equipment Needs and Technology Support including:

- vi. Table/plinths, such as a massage or treatment table for each Classification room (one if one panel for the tournament; two if two panels)
- vii. Floor mats for each Classification room (one if one panel for the tournament; two if two panels)
- viii. Tables and chairs at courtside reserved for Classifiers only to conduct on court observation (one table and four chairs at each court if one panel at the tournament; two tables with four chairs each at each court if two panels)
- ix. Wheelchair Rugby ball for each room, (one if one panel for the tournament; two if two panels)
- x. Office equipment, such as access to copier or printer, paper, pens, marking pens
- xi. Presentation equipment for training sessions, such as projector, writing pads, and marking pens

e. Accommodation and meals for Classifiers

- i. Classifiers may be placed in double accommodation.

f. Transportation to and from airport/train station to hotel

g. Local transportation to and from Competition venue or other event locations

17.5.3.11 Collect and organize any Classification documentation needed for Athlete Evaluation

17.5.3.12 Advise teams and athletes of any supportive Classification documentation that athletes should bring, which may include:

- a. Diagnostic Information, written clearly in English, of the athlete's Impairment and Underlying Health Condition, particularly if the athlete's Impairment is a result of an uncommon or rare condition; and/or
- b. Copies of Zone or international Classification documents.

17.5.3.13 Collect and organize USQRA Classification cards and necessary materials to make official USQRA Classification cards and temporary tournament only cards.

17.5.4 Chief Classifier Tasks Four Weeks Prior to Competition

17.5.4.1 Chief Classifier should send an electronic copy of the Classification Rules and related Classification information to the local organizing committee for distribution to all team managers including Athlete responsibilities, Protest procedures, Protest forms and any other changes in Classification Rules relevant for the specific tournament such as when pool play or round robin play will end, time frame for Protests, and changes in Sport Class.

- 17.5.4.2 Request final tournament roster from tournament director; confirm names and uniform number of athletes requiring evaluation by cross-referencing rosters with the database and/or master list.
- 17.5.4.3 Prepare Classification schedule and establish specific times for teams and individual athletes. Confirm scheduled times for Athlete Evaluation correspond realistically with team travel arrangements, training and match play schedule.
- 17.5.4.4 The Chief Classifier has the right to determine the number of athletes that can reasonably be accommodated at a tournament and to prioritize athletes for Classification.
 - a. If a large number of athletes need Classification and it is not logistically possible for one panel to evaluate all the athletes within the time period of the tournament, athletes who are new and do not have a USQRA Sport Class and Sport Class Status have first priority.
 - b. Refer to Appendix C.3 Guideline to Classification Scheduling for classification priorities.
- 17.5.4.5 Provide copy of Classification schedule and any other relevant information for Classification to tournament director to disseminate to all competing teams;
- 17.5.4.6 Final check of Athlete Sport Class and Sport Class Status for athletes attending Competition; and
- 17.5.4.7 Contact all Classifiers to confirm attendance, update any travel arrangements, provide information on accommodation and transportation, and provide Classification schedules.
- 17.5.5 Chief Classifier Tasks One to Two Weeks Prior to Competition
 - 17.5.5.1 Make copies of forms, collect necessary number of Classification cards, and prepare other office materials needed for Classification; and
 - 17.5.5.2 Make final communications with Classification Panel members and local organizing committee as necessary prior to departure for the Competition.

17.6 Administration during Competition

- 17.6.1 Chief Classifier Duties during Competition
- 17.6.2 Review Classification cards for all athletes at the tournament to ensure Sport Class and Sport Class Status are correct according to the database, Classification cards are legible and in good condition, as is logistically possible.
 - a. Card review should take place prior to tournament play, if logistically possible.
 - b. The coach or designated Team Representative may be requested to bring all Classification cards to the Chief Classifier for review and updating before or during a team's scheduled Classification period.

- c. If review is not possible during the Classification period, the Chief Classifier should request the cards be produced as soon as possible.
 - d. Classification cards may be examined at the scorer's table during tournament play.
- 17.6.2.2 Missing, incorrect or damaged Classification cards must be replaced, with appropriate fees collected.
- 17.6.2.3 Classification cards must be revised or a new card issued if there is a change in Sport Class. If there is a change in Sport Class requiring a new Classification card, there is no charge for a new Classification card.
- 17.6.2.4 Sport Class Status is NOT written on the Classification card with one exception:
 - a. Athletes with a Confirmed Sport Class should have a "C" written next to the Sport Class on the Classification card, for example. 2.0 C.
 - b. Sport Class Status is noted on the Classification form, recorded on the written Classification report and maintained in the Athlete database.
- 17.6.2.5 After completion of the bench test and sport-specific tests in Athlete Evaluation and the panel decision on the initial allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status, the Chief Classifier or a member of the Classification Panel will inform the Athlete of initial Sport Class (Entry Sport Class).
- 17.6.2.6 Make any necessary changes to the athlete's Classification card and notify the Head referee of any relevant changes in Sport Class.
- 17.6.2.7 At the end of each Classification evaluation session, or once daily, or as soon as is logistically possible, the Chief Classifier will post written results in a central location and/or may provide the local organizing committee with a written list of Sport Class and Sport Class Status of all evaluated athletes for distribution to each team.
- 17.6.2.8 Post final results at a central tournament location and distribute final written list of Sport Class and Sport Class Status to USQRA at the conclusion of the tournament.

17.7 Post Competition Administration

17.7.1 Chief Classifier Duties Post Competition

17.7.1.1 Protest Fees

- a. If the Protest decision is upheld (decision in favor of protesting party), Protest fees are returned to the protesting party. Note the time and date of the refund on the Protest form and include this form with the post-competition report.
- b. If the Protest decision is not upheld (decision against the protesting party), the fee is forwarded to the USQRA Head of Classification.

- c. If a Protest is carried forward to the earliest tournament where the Athlete will be playing and Classification will be available, the Protest fee is forwarded to the USQRA Head of Classification until the Protest is resolved.
- d. If a Protest is withdrawn and may be lodged at a later date, the Protest fee is returned to the protesting party.

17.7.1.2 Post Competition Report

- a. The Chief Classifier will complete and send a Post-competition report and all Classification related forms and money to the USQRA Head of Classification within 10 days following the end of the tournament.
- b. The report should include a complete list of the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of all athletes evaluated, reviewed and protested, Protest forms, comments and recommendations regarding event management to share with the local organizers and the USQRA Board, minutes from any Classifier meetings; and a Classifier training and certification report, if training is conducted at the tournament.
- c. Send completed Classification forms and Protest forms to the Database Administrator and/or Head of Classification.

17.7.2 Head of Classification, Secretary and Database Administrator Duties

- 17.7.2.1 Head of Classification will communicate with Chief Classifier to ensure that all Classification forms and documentation are sent to the Database Administrator; and
- 17.7.2.2 Secretary and Database Administrator will coordinate to ensure the database and master list are updated in a timely manner.

17.8 Classification Documents and Forms

- 17.8.1 Classifiers use a number of documents and forms in Classification and in Classifier training and certification.
- 17.8.2 The USQRA Classifiers use the USQRA Classification form to record results of each Athlete Evaluation including Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 17.8.3 The USQRA Classifiers provide a USQRA Classification Card to Athletes in accordance with Article 7.9. Refer to Appendix B.1 Athlete Classification Form and Appendix C.5 Guideline to USQRA Classification Cards.
- 17.8.4 Documents and forms are found in the Appendices of these Classification Rules and/or on the USQRA website.
- 17.8.5 Forms particular to Classifiers only are kept in an easily accessible type of File Sync and Share Platform, such as Dropbox.

18 Glossary¹

Ability	A quality or state of being able to perform.
Activity Limitation	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities, such as walking, transferring or pushing a wheelchair. Refer to Sport-specific Activity Limitation.
Adaptive Equipment:	Devices and gear modified to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.
Appeal	The procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Ataxia	One of three eligible coordination impairments. Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
Athetosis	One of three eligible coordination impairments. Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
Athlete	Any person who participates in wheelchair rugby at the national or development level (as defined by the USQRA). Also referred to as “player”.
Athlete Evaluation	The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the USQRA Classification Rules and relevant IWRF rules to award a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
Athlete Support Personnel	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, team support staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating athletes training and/or preparing for or participating in a Competition.
Chief Classifier	The USQRA certified Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for a specified Competition or tournament. (Formerly referred to as the Head Classifier of a tournament.)
Classification	A structure for competition to ensure that an Athlete’s Impairment is relevant to sport performance. Includes the grouping of Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport. Also referred to as Athlete Classification.

¹ Definitions are consistent with the IWRF Classification Rules and the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.

Classification Evaluation Period	The timeframe prior to or during a Competition within which Athlete Evaluation takes place, including physical assessment and technical assessment. May also include observation assessment. Typically, invitational and regional or sectional tournaments do not have a separate Classification Evaluation Period prior to competition. The USQRA National Tournament may not include a separate Classification Evaluation Period.
Classification Master List	A list made available by the USQRA that identifies Athletes who have participated in USQRA Classification.
Classification Panel	A group of Classifiers, appointed by the USQRA, to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the USQRA Classification Rules. A USQRA Classification Panel must include at least three classifiers to allocate Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
Classification Personnel	Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of the USQRA in relation to Athlete Evaluation, such as administrative officers.
Classification Rule	Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols, and descriptions adopted by the USQRA and/or the IWRF in connection with Athlete Classification.
Classification System	The framework used by the IWRF and/or the USQRA to develop and designate Sport Classes in Wheelchair Rugby.
Classifier	A person authorized as an official by the USQRA to evaluate athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
Classifier Certification	The process by which the USQRA will assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies to conduct wheelchair rugby Classification in the USA.
Classifier Competencies	The qualifications and abilities that the IWRF and/or the USQRA deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for wheelchair rugby.
Code	The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athlete Classification Code.
Competition	An individual event, a series of events or a tournament under the jurisdiction of the USQRA.
Competition Class	This is the point total an Athlete plays with on court if allowed an exception in Sport Class. USQRA allows a 0.5 deduction from the Sport Class for age (45 or over, over 65, under 16 years of age) and/or female. If an Athlete is eligible for more than one of these exceptions, deductions are allowed to a baseline of 0.0 for the Competition Class. The maximum number for deductions is 1.5, for example, a female athlete who is over 65.
Conflict of Interest	A pre-existing personal or professional relationship that brings about the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.

Confirmed Sport Class Status	Formerly referred to as Permanent (P) Sport Class Status. Assigned to an Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class at three tournaments (over a minimum of six years) with no change in the athlete's class at the conclusion of the Competition. This Status provides a degree of protection and stability of competition to the Athlete. The Athlete with Sport Class Status C will not have a change in Sport Class except in the case of a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances.
Diagnosis	A process of identifying and verifying a Health Condition by its signs, symptoms, and various diagnostic procedures. Also referred to as Medical Diagnosis.
Diagnostic Information	Medical records and any other documentation of a similar nature that enables the USQRA to assess the existence or else of a Health Condition that leads to Eligible Impairment and/or an Eligible Impairment.
Effective Date	The date upon which Classification Rules come into effect.
Eligible Impairment	An Eligible Impairment is a prerequisite for an Athlete to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport of Wheelchair Rugby. Eligible Impairments in IWRF Wheelchair Rugby consist of Muscle Power, limb loss, coordination, Short Stature, and passive range of motion.
Eligibility	Authorized to compete in a sport based on the presence of a permanent and verifiable Eligible Impairment with an Underlying Health Condition that meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport.
Entry Criteria for Classifier Eligibility	Standards set by the IWRF and the USQRA relating to the professional qualifications, expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be act as Classifiers. In the USQRA this includes persons with medical and professional education and training, which may include former Athletes or coaches, who have the professional qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation.
Entry-level education	The delivery of basic knowledge and practical skills specified by the IWRF and/or the USQRA to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under their governance.
Entry Sport Class	A Sport Class allocated to an Athlete by a panel of certified Classifiers to indicate the Sport Class with which the Athlete enters competition. This Sport Class is based on two parts of Athlete Evaluation including Impairment Tests and sport-specific tests and is an estimate, which is completed by observation on court.
Evaluation Session	The session an Athlete is required to attend with a Classification Panel. The Evaluation session is conducted to: assess if the Athlete meets Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for the sport; and to allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

Fixed Review Date	A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation, unless there is a Protest or a medical review request. Unless otherwise specified by the Classification Panel, the Fixed Review Date in the USQRA is every three years after the initial Sport Class is allocated until the Athlete is allocated Confirmed Sport Class Status.
Head of Classification	An individual responsible for all direction, administration, coordination and implementation of Classification matters for the USQRA.
Health Condition	A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.
Hypertonia	Athletes with Hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
Impairment	A permanent reduction in body structure or function that has an impact on sport performance.
Impairment Test	Also referred to as Bench Test or Physical Assessment. Part of Athlete Evaluation conducted by a panel of certified Classifiers. This includes an interview related to Diagnosis and medical history, training history, sensation, spasticity, range of motion, and manual muscle tests.
Intentional Misrepresentation	A deliberate attempt, either by fact or omission, to mislead the USQRA as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities in Wheelchair Rugby, and/or the nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.
IPC	International Paralympic Committee, the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement whose purpose is to organize the summer and winter Paralympic Games and act as the International Federation for 10 sports, supervising and coordinating the World Championships and other competitions for those 10 sports.
IWRF	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation, the International Sport Federation (IF), which is the governing body for wheelchair rugby recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of the Paralympic Sport.
Limb Deficiency	Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital Limb Deficiency (for example dysmelia).
Minimum impairment criteria	How severe Eligible Impairment must be for an Athlete to be considered eligible in Wheelchair rugby. Also referred to as Minimal Eligibility or Minimum Disability Criteria.

Muscle Power Impairment	Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have an Underlying Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force, for example loss of strength. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or Paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and Charcot Marie Tooth.
National Classifier	An individual who has been certified as a National Classifier in his/her own nation.
New Sport Class Status (N)	Designates an Athlete who has not yet been evaluated by a USQRA Classification Panel and has not had an Entry Sport Class verified by the USQRA
Non-Cooperation (NC)	Also known as “unclassifiable” (UC). Category describing an Athlete who is unable or unwilling to participate fully in the Classification process.
Normal Trunk	A Normal Trunk in Wheelchair Rugby is defined as symmetrical trunk function in all three planes of movement on a stable pelvis.
Observation Assessment	The Observation Assessment part of Athlete Evaluation results in confirmation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status. May be done as the initial part of a Protest evaluation. Also known as on-court observation and observation on court.
Para sport	All sport for Athletes with Eligible Impairment whether or not the sport is part of the Paralympic program. Wheelchair rugby is a Para sport and is also on the Paralympic Program.
Paraplegia	Weakness or paralysis affecting the legs, and in many cases, the trunk; most commonly due to injury to the thoracic or lumbar spine. Athletes with Paraplegia are not eligible to play Wheelchair Rugby.
Permanent	Describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning the principal effects will be life-long.
Permanent Sport Class Status	Now known as Confirmed (C) Sport Class Status. No Athlete is truly “permanent” as they may have to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the case of a Protest Under Exceptional Circumstances or a change in the Classification Rules that may affect their Sport Class. This rationale led to the change from Permanent Sport Class Status to Confirmed Sport Class Status.
Player Classification Representative (PCR)	An Athlete or former Athlete, who represents the interests of an Athlete going through Classification such as Athlete Evaluation and/or Protests. This individual’s experience and perspective may also be used in the review of Classification Rules and development of new Classification Rules, and/or Classification policies and procedures. Formerly referred to as Player Classification Board Member (PCB).
Protest	The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Protest Panel	A Classification Panel appointed to resolve a Protest.

Protest under Exceptional Circumstances	A Protest lodged by the USQRA Head of Classification or a tournament Chief Classifier when they believe that an athlete's Sport Class no longer reflects that athlete's ability to compete equitably within the Sport Class.
Quadriplegia	Weakness or paralysis affecting all four limbs, most commonly due to spinal cord injury involving the neck. Also referred to as Tetraplegia. Athletes in Wheelchair Rugby must have combinations of trunk, upper and lower extremity Impairment that meets Minimum Impairment Criteria to be eligible to compete.
Review Sport Class Status	Athletes require further Athlete Evaluation to confirm their Sport Class
Review with Fixed Review Date Sport Class Status	Athlete with this Status will not be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation prior to a set date. In the USQRA the Fixed Review Date is three years.
Short Stature	Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include Achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.
Sport Class	A category for competition defined by the IWRF and/or USQRA by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport. The IPC Classification Code recommends National sport organizations; such as USQRA follow the International Sport Federation (IWRF) rules as closely as possible.
Sport Class Status	A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.
Sport-specific Activity Limitation	Sport-specific Activity Limitations are those relevant to sport actions and movements. In wheelchair rugby, these include difficulties an individual may have in wheelchair propulsion, wheelchair maneuvering and ball handling. These activities are observed in Athlete Evaluation and factor in the allocation of Sport Class.
Sport-specific Tests	Also referred to as the bench test, technical assessment and functional skills tests. The portion of Athlete Evaluation that includes various ball and chair activities. These activities are observed under a variety of conditions, including both with and without equipment, in a controlled environment, and during training and competition in a challenged situation.
Sport-Specific Classification	A Classification System where athletes are examined and assessed including type, cause and severity of Impairment and the impact of Impairment on the specific tasks required for the sport, previously referred to as Functional Classification.
Technical Official	Personnel responsible for the enforcement of the sport rules and regulations of the USQRA during wheelchair rugby Competitions. Examples include Classifiers, referees, trainers, educators and evaluators of Technical Officials.

Tetraplegia	Also referred to as Quadriplegia. Refers to weakness or paralysis affecting all four limbs, most commonly due to spinal cord injury involving the neck. Athletes in Wheelchair Rugby have combinations of trunk, upper and lower extremity Impairment that meet Minimum Impairment Criteria to be eligible to compete.
Trainee Classifier	A person who is in the process of formal education and training to become a Classifier.
Underlying Health Condition	The Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment.
USQRA	United States Quad Rugby Association, the equivalent to the national federation (NF) for wheelchair rugby.
USQRA Classification Committee	A group of Classifiers responsible for administrative and development related to Classification in Wheelchair Rugby in the United States, for example Classification Rules, Classification policy and procedures, Classifier recruitment and development, Classifier training and accreditation and overall administration of USQRA Classification. The Committee is directly associated with the USQRA Board and consists of the USQRA Head of Classification, Head Classifiers from the four geographic sections and other Classification related officers.
USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct	The professional behavioral and ethical standards specific to USQRA Classifiers in carrying out their Classification duties.
USQRA Code of Conduct	The USQRA Code of Conduct ensures that obligations of fair play and personal honor are met and the highest ethical standards are observed by all players, coaches, support staff, referees, Classifiers, officers of the USQRA and all others working or operating under the authority of USQRA. Available at: http://usqra.org/files/2012%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf USQRA.
Wheelchair Rugby	Wheelchair Rugby began as a sport for Athletes with Tetraplegia (Quadriplegia) and has grown into an intense, physical team sport for both male and female athletes with other Impairments. Wheelchair Rugby is also referred to as Quad Rugby In some nations.

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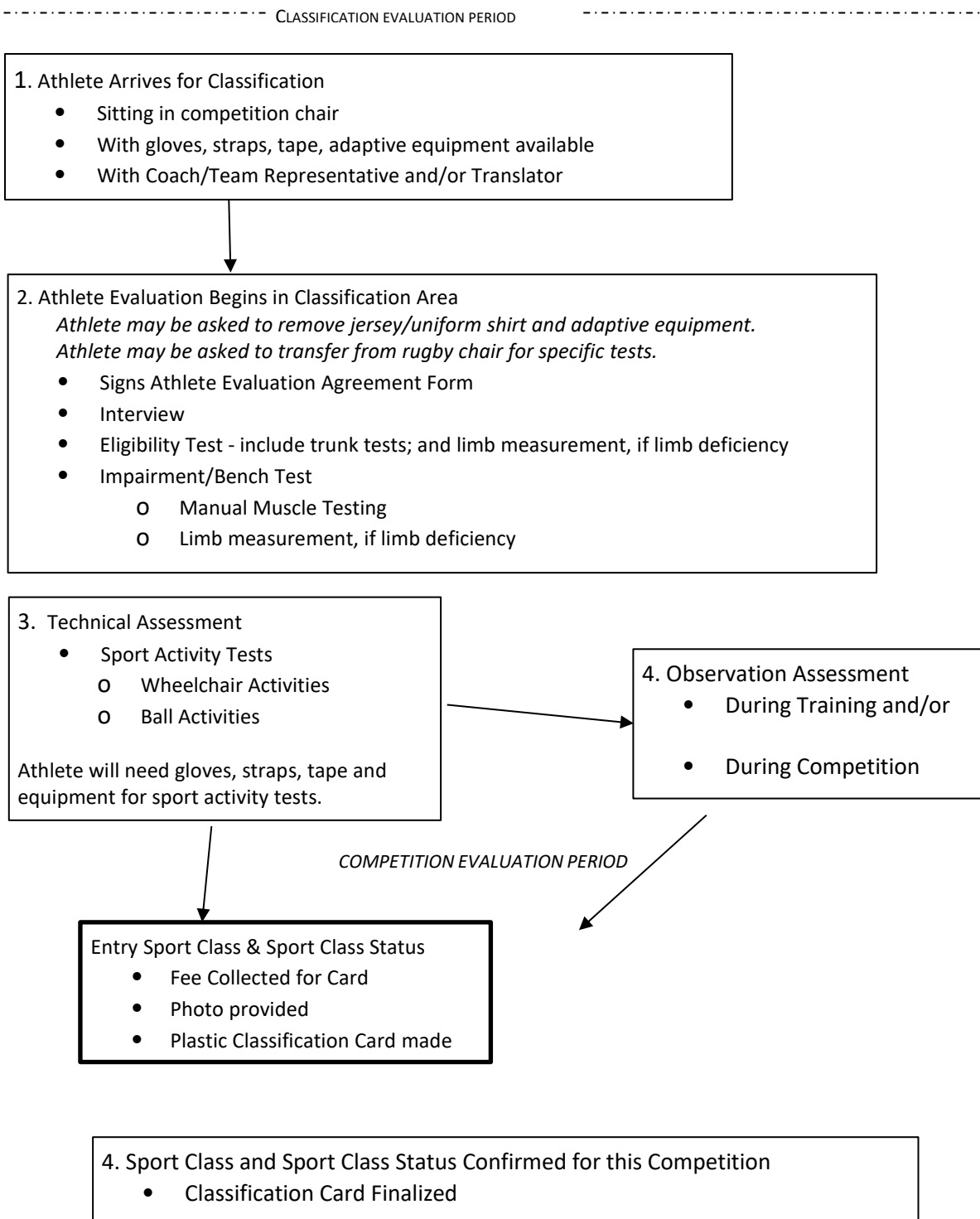
20 Appendices

The following appendices consist of rule additions, procedural documents, guidelines, and forms for USQRA Athlete Classification, including:

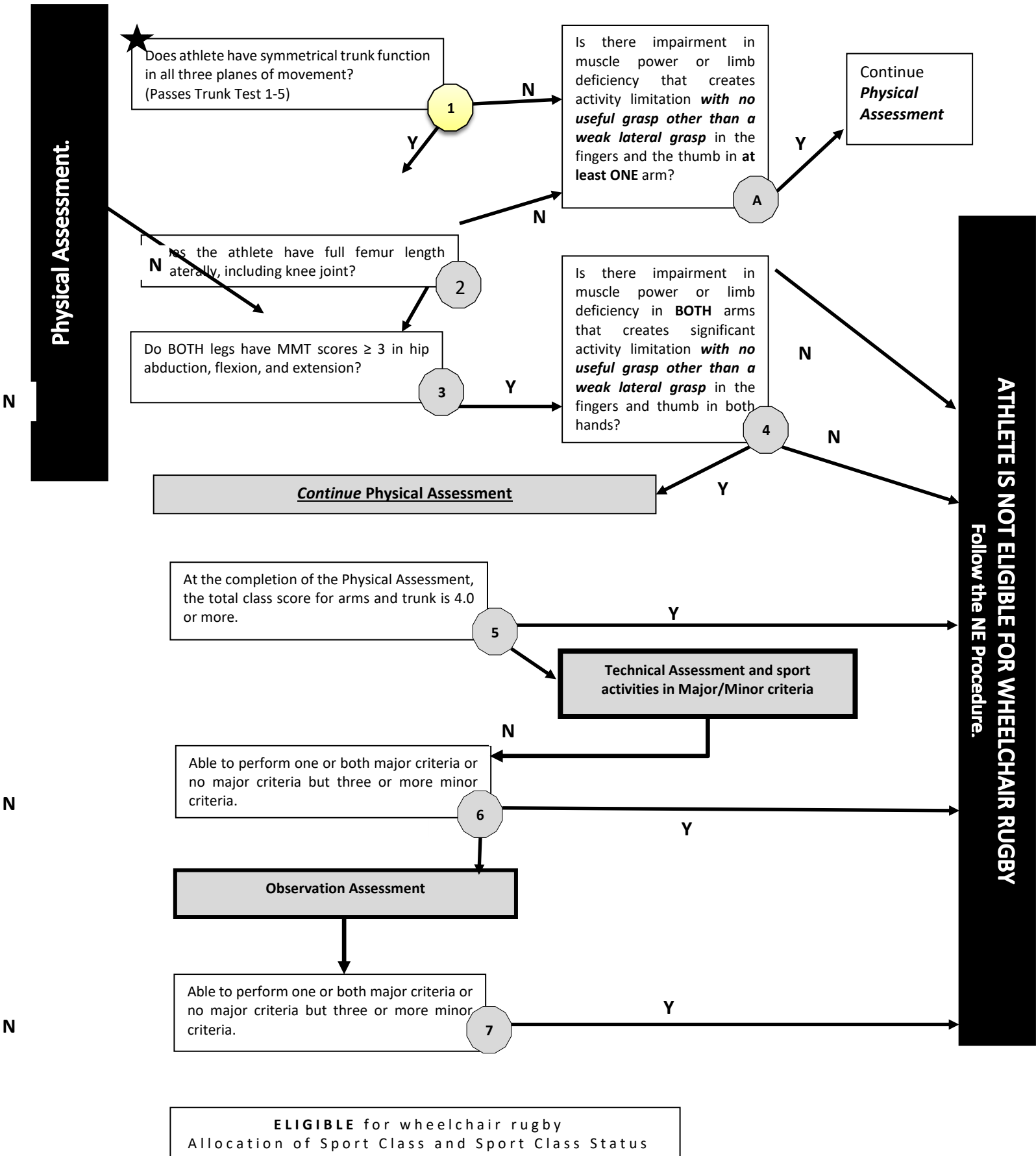
- Eligible Impairment Types and Non-Eligible Impairment Types
- Procedures for Athlete Evaluation,
- Management of a decision of Not Eligible,
- Classification related forms,
- Guidelines for Classifiers, and
- Forms specific to Classifiers.

A. Procedures used in Athlete Evaluation

A.1. Athlete Classification Pathway



A.2. Eligibility Test



Steps 1 and 3: The impact of impairment is determined by the activity of grasping. Grasp is defined as the ability of the digits to hold, securing, or pick up objects. Impairment impacting grasps is expected in these steps. However, as lateral grasp does not require thumb opposition, you may find a weak lateral grasp, but there should not be a spherical or hook grasp.

The three types of grasps that include a sport specific component to wheelchair rugby are lateral grasp, spherical grasp and hook grasp:

- The lateral grasp, or pinch, pad-to-side, pad of extended thumb pressing an object against the radial side of the index finger is a strong grip. This grip does not require an opposed thumb - a person who has lost opposition but has retained thumb adduction can grasp small objects. In wheelchair rugby, a lateral grasp can be used for limited ball control and security, and wheel contact.



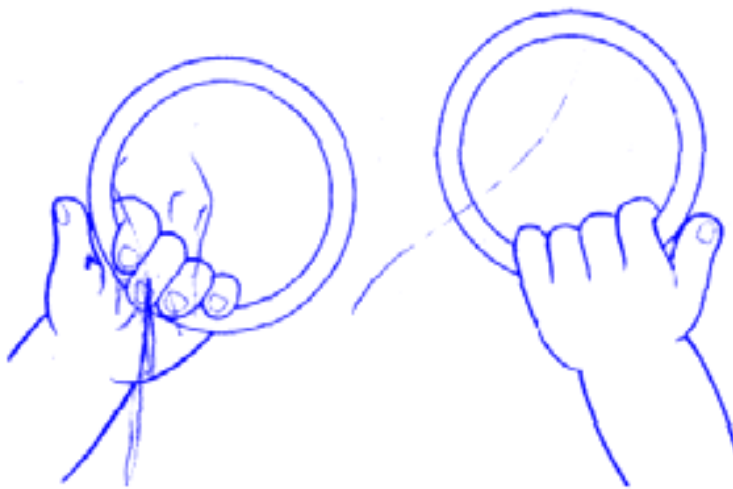
Lateral Grasp

- Spherical grasp, a power grasp, has all fingers and the thumb reaching around an object, fingers more spread apart. The palm is often not involved. Used to hold something round, for example the top of a water bottle or wheelchair rugby ball.



Spherical Grasp

- Hook grasp, a power grasp used to hold with the 2nd through 5th fingers flexed around an object in a hook like manner. Used in wheelchair rugby for example, to grip the wheel rim or tire to pull back for propelling backwards or back out of a pick. Be sure the grip is from finger flexion in isolation from the wrist, and not the use of a tenodesis grip.



Hook Grasp

Step 5: If the total score for the arms and trunk at the conclusion of the physical assessment is 4.0 or more, the Athlete is Not Eligible (NE). This is calculated on the classification form as the Total Class.

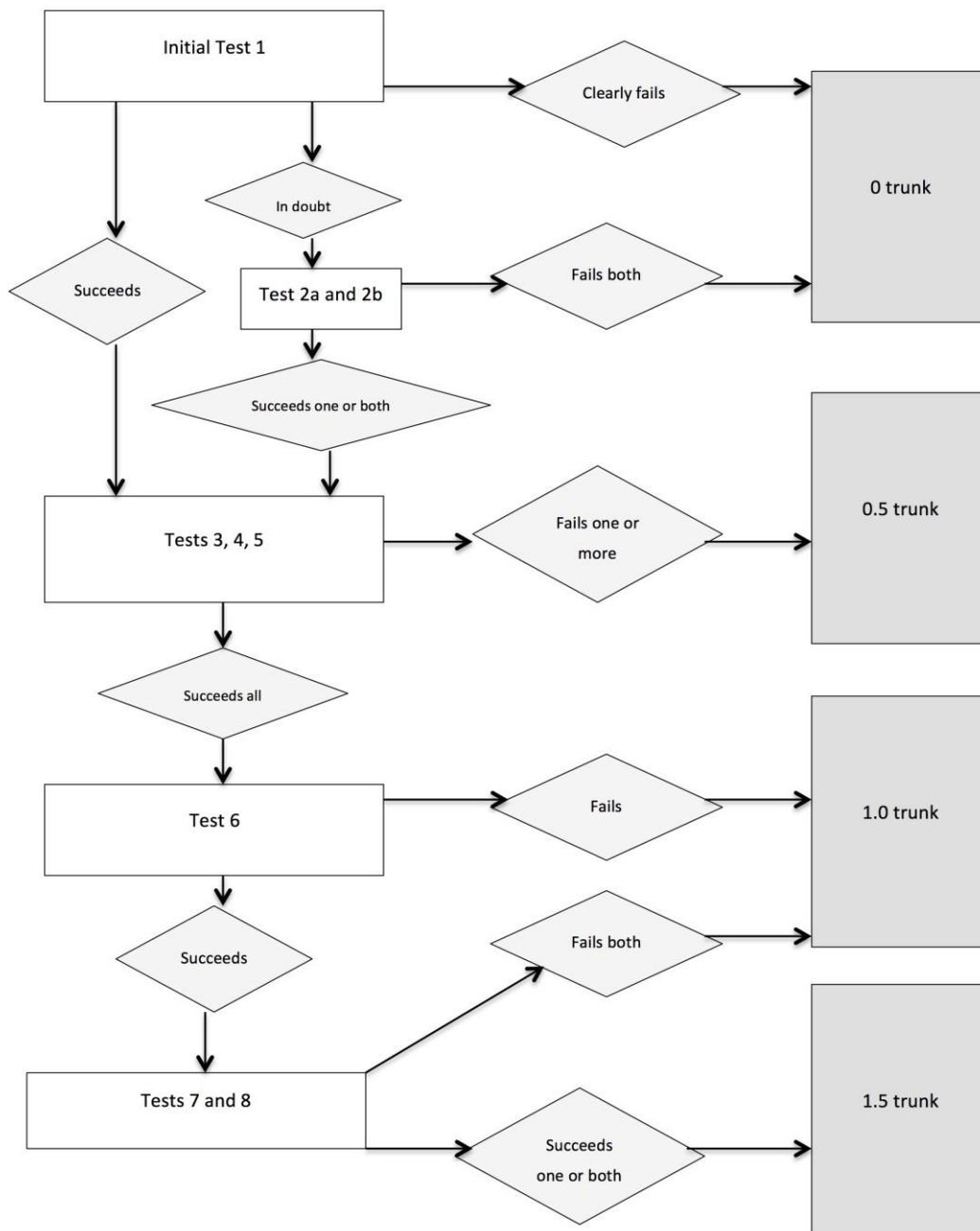
Step 6 and Step 7: This means if the athlete has one or both major criteria, the athlete is Not Eligible. Also, if the athlete has NO major criteria but three or more minor criteria, the athlete is Not Eligible.

Step 6: If the Athlete is Not Eligible after the Technical Assessment, the Athlete is Not Eligible for Wheelchair Rugby and should not move forward to Observation Assessment.

Step 7: If the athlete has zero, one or two activities in the technical assessment and moves forward to observation assessment but shows one or both major criteria and/or three or more minor criteria on court during play, further review by the panel is recommended. This continuation athlete evaluation and repeated testing is necessary to ensure the observed activities are not influenced by equipment, training, and skill.

- The classification panel may repeat the technical assessment both with and without equipment, and/or repeat any impairment tests such as muscle tests or limb measurements to clarify why the athlete can do these activities on court but not during testing.
- If there is no logical explanation, the classification panel should suspend athlete evaluation. The panel will need to consider the potential of this as classification not complete and follow the procedure in Article 30 of these rules.

A.3. Trunk Test Flow Chart

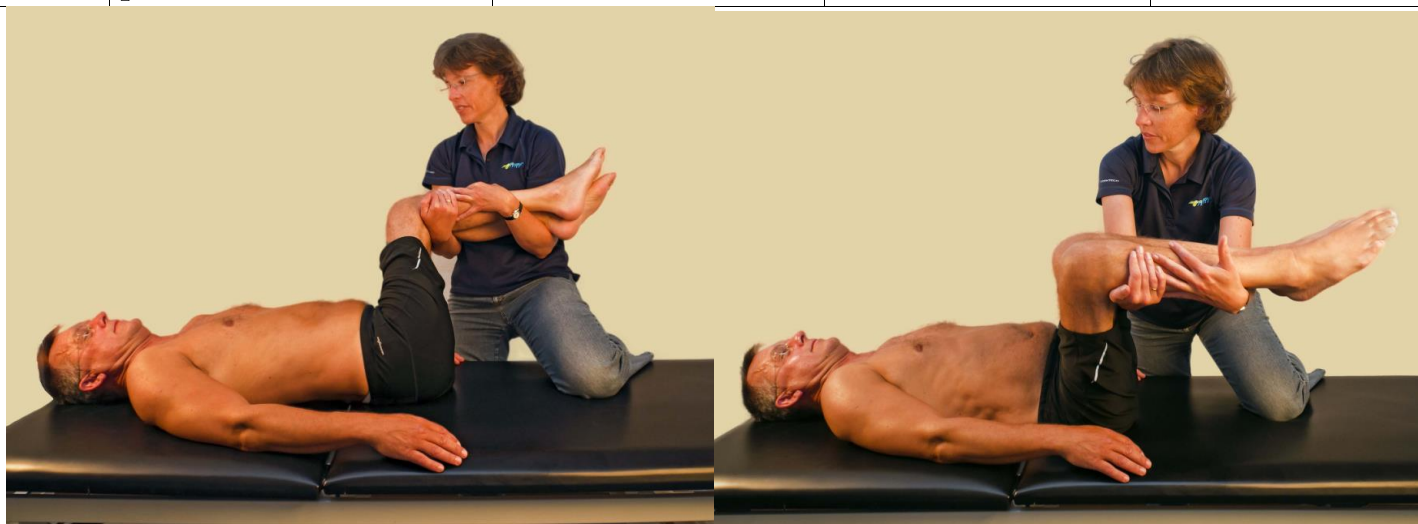


A.4. Description of Trunk Tests

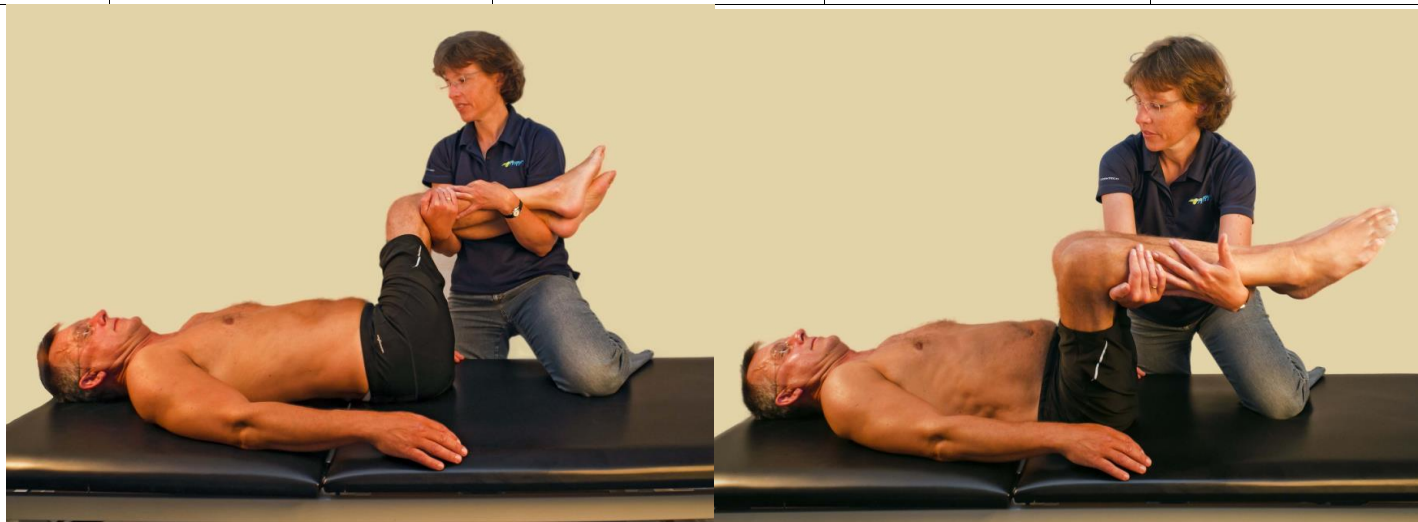
Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
1	Athlete sitting unsupported. Athlete sitting in wheelchair not supported by backrest, or sitting on plinth with legs hanging over edge of plinth with feet unsupported. The athlete crosses the arms in front of his chest, to prevent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



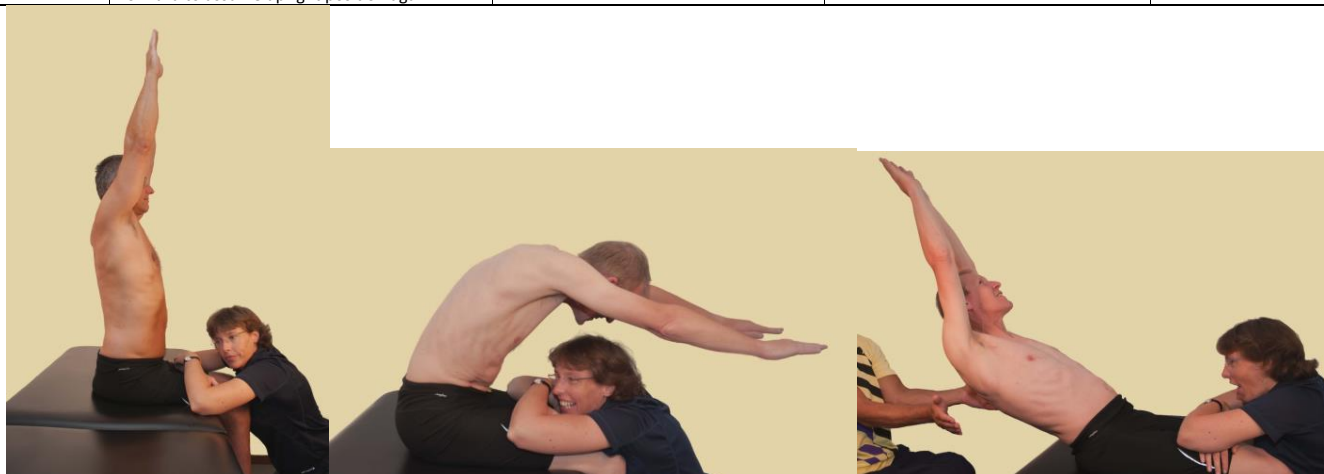
Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
2a	Athlete lying on back, classifier flexes knees and hips to 90°, feet are unsupported. The classifier holds the lower legs and the classifier rotates the legs from one side to the other. Ask athlete to resist movement of the classifier.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



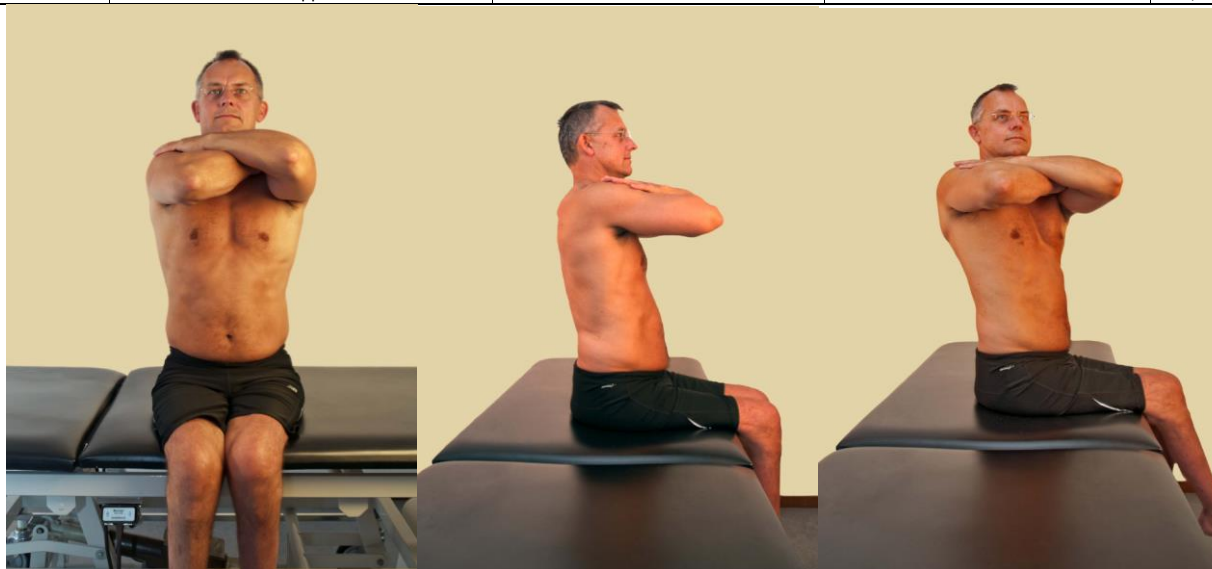
Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
2a	Athlete lying on back, classifier flexes knees and hips to 90°, feet are unsupported. The classifier holds the lower legs and the classifier rotates the legs from one side to the other. Ask athlete to resist movement of the classifier.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



Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
3	<p>Athlete is sitting on plinth, legs hanging over the edge of the plinth with the feet unsupported. Bending forward with trunk towards lap and arms outstretched in maximum shoulder flexion. (If the athlete has triceps weakness, the classifier supports the forearms, to keep the elbows extended). Ask athlete to assume straight/upright position and maintain arm position in maximum shoulder flexion. The classifier fixates both legs to the plinth at the proximal 1/3 of the thighs, close to the hips. The feet should be unsupported. Athlete extends trunk past upright and flexes forward to assume upright position again.</p>	Observe movement, standing lateral to the athlete.	<p>Athlete performs trunk flexion to at least 5° line between pelvis and C7 and vertical and maintains position. And Athlete performs at least 30° trunk extension and maintains position. Resumes straight position without support of arms.</p>	<p>Athlete does not perform flexion to 45° and extension to 30° or compensates by kyphosis/lordosis or cannot resume straight position without support or compensations.</p>



Trunk Test no.	Test Description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
4.	Athlete sitting on plinth, legs hanging over the edge of the plinth with the feet unsupported. Arms crossed in front in 90° shoulder flexion. Ask for maximum rotation to both sides. The classifier fixates both legs to the plinth at the proximal 1/3 of the thighs, close to the hips. The feet should be unsupported.	Observe from the front, back and lateral from the athlete.	Athlete stays in upright position in sagittal plane. Rotates 5° or more to both sides, measured in straight line between both shoulders and line between ASIS on both sides.	Athlete does not rotate or rotates less than 5°, or athlete cannot maintain upright position in sagittal plane while rotating (e.g. assumes kyphotic posture). Or athlete can perform test to one side, but not to the other.



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



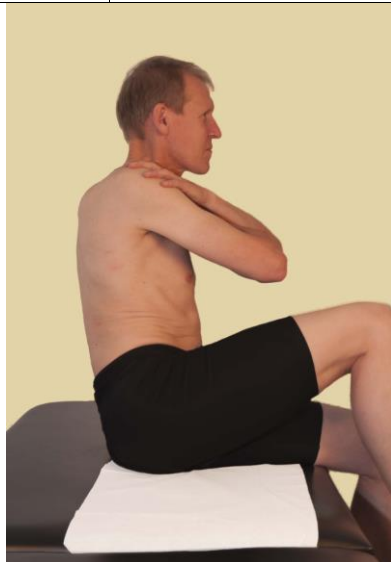
Trunk Test no.	Test Description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
6	<p>Athlete lying on plinth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test MMT hip abduction with athlete lying on side with the shoulder resting on the table. With the hip in full extension. Test hip flexion with athlete lying on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



Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: Succeeds	Score: Fails
7.	Athlete lying on back, flexes knees and hips to 90°. The classifier holds the lower legs to get into and maintain the hip and knee position. The classifier continues to hold the lower legs and asks athlete to move legs from one side to the other. The arms of the athlete are positioned in 90° abduction. The athlete has to keep his shoulder flat on the plinth and is not allowed to use his hands to push down or hold on to the plinth.	Observe quality of movement and amount of resistance.	Athlete moves both legs to one side to a minimum of 5°, and resumes position. The athlete performs the test to both sides, one side at a time.	Athlete is unable to perform test to both sides or cannot resume position. Or can only perform by using compensations (e.g. lifting arms from plinth to gain momentum).



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



A.5. Trunk Value Definitions and Observation

Trunk Value	Definition	Trunk tests	Sports specific technical assessment and Observation in competition
0	No trunk control Collapse position within base of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails test 1 Fails test 2a <i>and</i> 2b, if necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyphotic posture if unsupported (kyphotic posture = thoracolumbar kyphosis together with posterior pelvic tilt) Collapse of trunk when stopping Instability when hit Shoulders move backwards when pushing and throwing Shoulders lag behind body/wheelchair in turn
0.5	Able to maintain upright trunk posture within base of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passes tests 1 Passes test 2a <i>and/or</i> 2b, if necessary Fails at least one of tests 3,4,5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upright position in chair Partial or full collapse of trunk when stopping Trunk does not stay in position in hit Shoulders stay in position in push (do not move backwards/ upwards) Shoulders stay in position in throw Partial shoulder lag in turns
1.0	Able to move trunk outside of base of support and return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passes test 1 Passes test 2a <i>and/or</i> 2b, if necessary Passes tests 3,4,5 Fails test 6 Or passes test 6, but fails <i>both</i> test 7 and 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upright position in chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May use low back rest No collapse of trunk in stopping Trunk stays in position in hit Shoulders stay in position in push and throws No shoulder lag in turns Reach outside of base of support If outside base of support, able to reassume position without use of hands

1.5	Able to shift base of support by using trunk, pelvis or legs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes all of the above tests. • Passes test 6, and passes test 7 and/or test 8. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the features of 1.0 trunk <i>and</i> • Able to firmly resist hit and maintain stable posture or moves towards direction of hit • Able to move wheelchair by using trunk, pelvis and legs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hops chair ○ Turns chair without use of arms/hands ○ Starts turn with trunk (shoulders turn first!) ○ Increases impact making hit with trunk and/or legs • Ball protection overhead without use of hands on wheel • Usually low back rest • Usually no belly binder, just hip strap
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A.6. Major & Minor Criteria Description and Scoring

Major criteria

- 1 Athlete shows consistent control in all planes of movement single-handed in challenged situations on both sides (must be able to control ball in all planes of movement with one hand and do so with both hands – one at a time).
- 2 Ball protection overhead with two hands and at the same time control chair with the trunk and the hips

Minor criteria

Chair skills:

1. Use of trunk to enhance push and change direction and velocity in combination **with the use of fingers** on the rim or wheel on both sides.
2. Without using hands, the athlete uses trunk to control chair, maintain balance and empower hits in all directions.
3. Hopping the chair out of blocks.
 - a. Hopping is defined as getting out of blocks or traps in defensive position by using trunk and legs to elevate pelvis and chair to jump.
 - b. Moving or “rocking” the chair forwards and backwards or laterally lifting chair on one side with minimal or no lifting of the pelvis and chair off of the ground is **not** considered hopping.
4. Without using hands on the chair, the athlete maintains an upright sitting balance when hit, while protecting the ball at the same time.

Ball skills:

5. Hold ball overhead using both hands for 5-10 seconds with partial control of trunk position (to maintain upright posture); athlete does not use one hand to stabilize chair.
6. Protecting ball overhead with two hands with (partial) control of trunk position, but no chair control.
7. Passing 15 meters with one or two hands, enhanced by active trunk flexion, extension or rotation.
8. Able to control ball in all planes **using fingers** of one hand on at least one side while holding chair with hand on the other side.
9. Pass securely and consistently in all directions with one hand on at least one side.
10. Reach outside cone of wheelchair in catch, dribble and picking ball from the floor to all sides, without support of the arms to get into position or resume upright position.

Scoring Major and Minor Criteria

Not Eligible - if ≥ 1 major criteria and/or ≥ 3 minor criteria:

- If the athlete has one or both major criteria, the athlete is not eligible (NE).
- If the athlete has no major criteria, but has 3 or more minor criteria, the athlete is NE. ^[1]_{SEP}

Eligible - ≤ 2 minor criteria:

- If the athlete has 0, 1, or 2 minor criteria, the athlete is eligible.

A.7. Characteristics of Sport Classes and Illustration

These examples of court roles and fundamental ball and chair handling activities for each of the seven Wheelchair Rugby sport classes are not complete class profiles and do not include all possible characteristics. These examples help classifiers train in the Sport specific Tests and observation assessment.

Examples of Sport-specific Characteristics for Sport Classes

Class	Typical On Court Role	Chair Activities	Ball Activities
0.5	Main role as blocker, not a major ball handler. May in-bound ball if only low pointer in line up on court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of extensive proximal shoulder weakness and lack of triceps, forward head bob present when pushing. Because of lack of triceps, pulls on back part of the wheel for push stroke, using biceps by bending elbows; elbows are also out to side, or abducted, when pushing (an “unopposed biceps push”). Because of wrist extensor weakness and lack of other wrist and hand function, may use forearm on wheel for starts, turns and stops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of proximal shoulder weakness, arm and wrist weakness, uses arm to trap direct passes on lap or bats ball into lap in from limited range Bats ball using “underhand volleyball pass” for long range pass. For short range pass uses “scoop pass” with the ball forward or to the side uses a two-hand underhand toss.
1.0	Blocker, may in-bound ball, not a major ball handler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of proximal shoulder weakness and triceps weakness, may have slight head bob when pushing, but has a longer push on wheel (combination of push and pull on back part of wheel) Because of increased strength in upper chest and shoulders, multidirectional start, stop and turn possible (can turn in all directions without stopping; easier and faster turning than 0.5 athlete; but because of triceps and wrist weakness, 1.0 athlete may still use forearm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forearm or wrist catch Weak chest pass or forearm pass

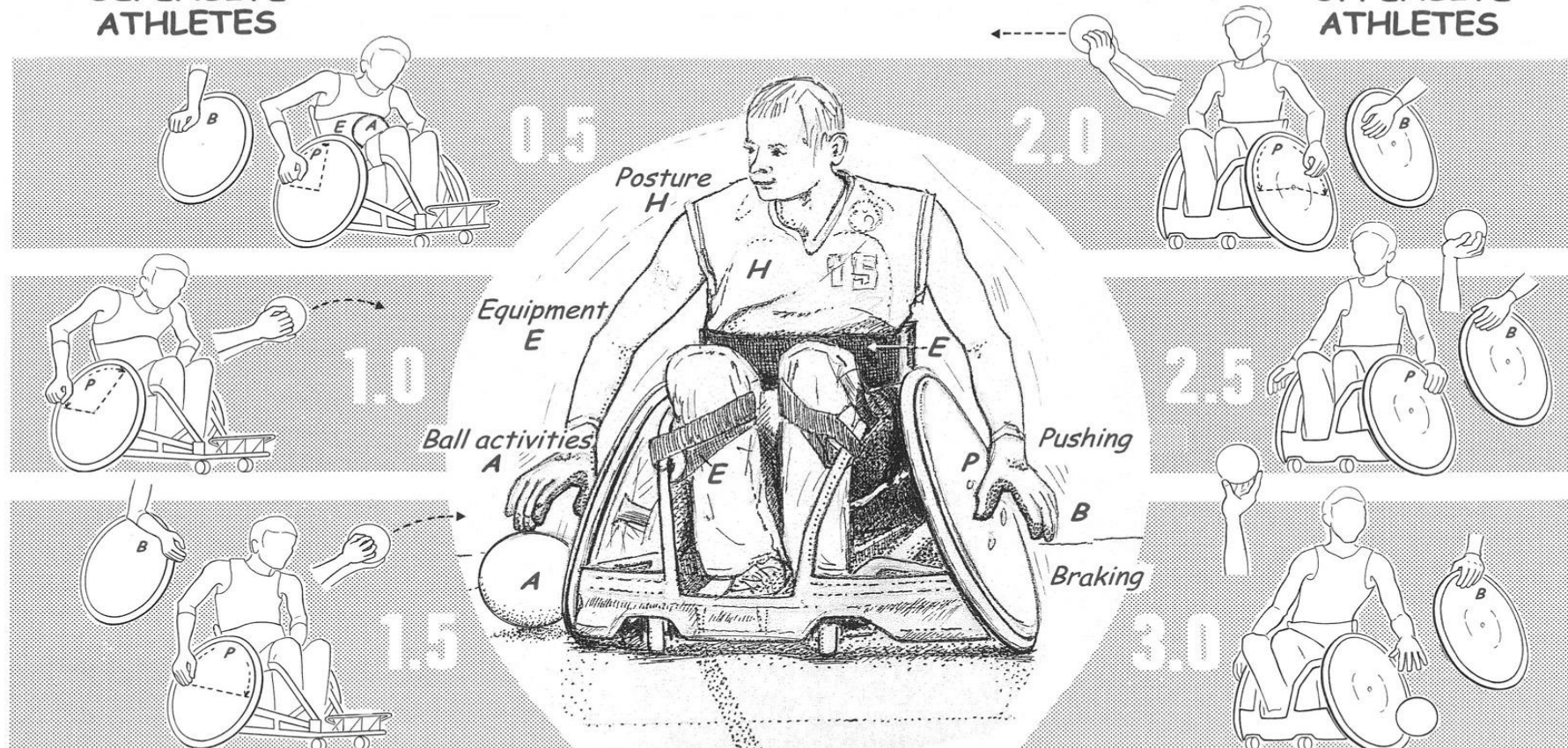
Class	Typical On Court Role	Chair Activities	Ball Activities
1.5	Excellent blocker and also may be occasional ball handler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased shoulder strength and stability allows for more effective and efficient pushing (including starts and stops) and ball handling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased shoulder strength and stability allows for increased pushing speed, ability to hold ball out in front of chair and increased distance and consistency to chest pass. Typically has wrist imbalance that causes limited ball security when passing. May have asymmetry present in arms. If so, predominantly uses the stronger arm for chair and ball activities. Has ability to perform a one handed pass but with poor control, accuracy and distance—rarely see on court during challenge but may be able to do during classification. If used, more often used for in-bounding.
2.0	Increasing role on court as ball handler. Depending on line up on court may be a major ball handler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically has very strong and stable shoulder that allows for excellent quick stops and starts and good pushing speed on court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective chest pass with control over moderate distance. Because of lack of finger flexion, there is limited ball security against defense during passing. Can hold the ball with wrists firmly, but does not have hand grasp or release without using wrists. Weak one-hand overhead pass with limited control and distance (may be able to do during classification but will only occasionally see on court during challenge).

Class	Typical On Court Role	Chair Activities	Ball Activities
2.5	Ball handler and fairly fast playmaker. Depending on line up on court may be a major ball handler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because of excellent shoulder strength and stability will see good pushing speed on court. ▪ Grasp is used to advantage to grip the push rim when challenged. ▪ May have some trunk control giving better stability in the chair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasonably balanced finger flexion and extension without true grasp and release. ▪ Dribbles the ball safely, but supinates forearm to scoop the ball onto the lap. ▪ Due to finger flexion strength capable of performing one-handed overhead pass, but limited accuracy and distance because of imbalance in finger strength. ▪ Safe two handed catching of passes, usually scooping ball to lap. May catch passes single handed and scoop to lap or chest. ▪ Improved ball security in challenge situations compared to 2.0 hands due to improved ability to isolate wrist/finger function. ▪ May have asymmetrical arm or hand function, noticeable with chair and ball handling activities.
3.0	Very good ball handler and fast playmaker. Depending on line up on court may be a major ball handler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because of balanced finger flexion and extension, athlete can grip wheelchair rim and tire for maneuvering chair, depending on how the rim is set up. ▪ May have some trunk control giving better stability in the chair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because of balanced strength in fingers, can control ball in varying planes of movement for passing, dribbling, catching and protecting ball during these activities. ▪ Has controlled dribble and passing of ball with one hand. ▪ Multiple dribble one handed with control. ▪ Stabilizes with the opposite arm to allow greater reach (if the athlete has no trunk muscle activity).
3.5	Major ball handler and very fast playmaker. Often is primary ball handler and playmaker on team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the athlete has trunk muscle activity, very stable in wheelchair and able to use trunk for ball and chair activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the athlete has both hand and trunk muscle activity, usually has excellent ball control for controlled one hand passing for distance and excellent ball security during passing and catching.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

DEFENSIVE ATHLETES

OFFENSIVE ATHLETES



Classification in wheelchair rugby.

Every team can have 4 athletes with a maximum point value on court of 8 points. The highest eligible sport class for wheelchair rugby is 3.5.

The athlete sport class can be seen from: Role on court (offensive or defensive)

-Posture (H) -Pushing (P) -Braking (B) -Ball activities (A) -Equipment (E)

Besides a point value for their arms, athletes also get a point value for their trunk and legs. The minimum point value is 0 (no active trunk or leg function) and the maximum value is 1.5 (good to normal trunk and leg function). The value for trunk and legs is added to the average value for both arms for the entrance sport class. An athlete in the 3.5 class can have a combination of arm, trunk and leg function.

IWRF
International Wheelchair Rugby Federation

For more information visit:
www.iwrf.com

A.8. Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Heath Conditions
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida. An Athlete with paraparesis or paraplegia may meet Minimum Impairment Criteria if another Underlying Health Condition results in sufficient motor power impairment in the arm, such as a brachial plexus injury.</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma or present at birth.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (such as amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (such as dysmelia).</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, and multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilization or trauma affecting a joint. In IWRF Wheelchair Rugby, impairment measures to set minimum impairment criteria are under development. Currently, Athletes with impairment in Passive Range of Movement may be eligible in wheelchair rugby, if the Athlete has another eligible impairment that meets Minimum Impairment Criteria for that eligible impairment.</p>

A.9. Non-Eligible Impairment Types for All Athletes

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments for Athletes in all Para sport include, but are not limited to the following:

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

A.10. Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for All Athletes

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

Health Conditions that primarily cause:

- pain;
- fatigue;
- joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or
- are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do not lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include:

- myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome,
- fibromyalgia, or
- complex regional pain syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is:

- chronic fatigue syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is:

- Ehlers- Danlos syndrome.

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

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

A.11. Procedure for Athletes Who are Not Eligible

This procedure outlines the process that is to be followed if an IWRF Classification Panel determines that an athlete is not eligible (NE) due to failure to meet Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC).

A Classification Panel may determine that an athlete is not eligible at any stage of the classification process. Specifically, this decision may be made:

- If the athlete fails to meet the minimum impairment criteria, following completion of the physical assessment (impairment test).
- Following completion of technical assessment (sport specific activities testing).
- Following completion of observation assessment (in-competition observation).

When a classification panel determines that an athlete is not eligible (NE), the resulting procedure will be dependent on whether there is another suitable panel available at the tournament to complete a second evaluation.

General Principles

1. A second Classification Panel must review, by way of a second evaluation session, any athlete who is allocated Sports Class Status NE on the basis that the classification panel determines that the athlete does not comply with the minimum impairment criteria. This must take place as soon as is practical.
2. An Athlete is **not** required to undergo a second evaluation. The Athlete may decline and by doing so, accepts the decision of Not Eligible as final.
3. Evaluation by a second panel is not considered to be a protest. **No** protest fee is payable. Submission of a protest form is **not** required.
4. If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in USQRA and IWRF Wheelchair Rugby.
5. Teams are to be permitted the opportunity to present additional evidence (medical documentation, written or video footage) to support the evaluation by the second Classification Panel, if they choose to do so.
6. In circumstances where video footage is required to complete the observation assessment, video footage submitted should be no more than 12 months old, and ideally shows the athlete competing at the tournament where the decision is made and/or at a tournament of a similar level, and giving maximal effort. These same conditions apply if the athlete or team wishes to submit additional video footage as evidence.
7. The second Classification Panel, Chief Classifier, or USQRA Head of Classification may seek further information, or medical, sports or scientific expertise in reviewing the athlete's Sport Class.
8. Pending the second evaluation session, the athlete will be allocated Sports Class NE and designated Sports Class Status Review (R). The athlete should not be permitted to compete again before such re-assessment.

9. A majority decision is required (2 out of 3 classifiers). The decision of individual panel members is confidential. The individual decision of each classifier is not to be recorded on the Classification Form.
10. If the second Classification Panel determines that the athlete does not comply with the minimum impairment criteria, or if the athlete declines to participate in a second evaluation session at the time set by the Chief Classifier, a Sports Class NE will be allocated and the athlete designated with Sports Class Status Confirmed (C).
11. If an athlete makes (or is subject to) a protest on a previously allocated Sports Class other than NE and is allocated Sports Class NE by a Protest Panel, the athlete must be provided with a further and final evaluation session, which will review the decision made by the Protest Panel to allocate Sport Class NE.
12. No protest of a Sports Class Status NE can be made unless there is a change in the criteria for allocation of a Sport Class in Wheelchair Rugby, or there is evidence provided of a change in the degree of impairment of the athlete due to a new health condition or significant deterioration of the existing health condition.
13. An athlete with NE review status may be placed on the team roster for a competition at which the team is scheduled to compete and the athlete is scheduled to undergo the second evaluation session.
14. Out of competition evaluation may also occur during a competition where the athlete and team is not rostered to compete at the discretion of the USQRA.

Procedure awarding NE class status at tournament where two classification panels are present:

1. Upon notification that an NE Sport Class Status has been awarded to an athlete by the first Classification Panel, the Chief Classifier will schedule the athlete for review by the second Classification Panel present at the tournament as soon as feasible.
2. The second Classification Panel will be permitted to undertake evaluation of the athlete with reference to all available classification information, including the decision or process undertaken by the first Classification Panel. The second panel is not permitted to speak with the first Classification Panel before or while the evaluation is in progress and a decision is being made.
3. If the second Classification Panel does not have sufficient time to complete the evaluation during the tournament, the Chief Classifier will direct the panel to complete their evaluation following the end of the tournament, and to advise the Chief Classifier of the outcome as soon as deliberations are complete and a decision has been made.
4. When the second Classification Panel is not able to make a decision before the end of the tournament, the Chief Classifier will advise the athlete/team that a decision has not been finalized, and that the final decision will be made within eight weeks of the end of the tournament.
5. Upon completion of their deliberations, the second Classification Panel will notify the Chief Classifier of the outcome of their evaluation.
6. The Chief Classifier will notify the team, athlete and USQRA Head of Classification of the outcome.
7. A circumstance could arise where the first panel at a tournament awards an athlete an eligible Sports Class, but this decision is then protested. If the Protest Panel determines that the athlete is NE, then the automatic review of this decision cannot occur at the same tournament. In this situation, the athlete is designated as NE (R), and evaluation by a second

Classification panel will need to occur out of competition. Out of competition evaluation may occur during a competition where the athlete is not rostered to compete.

Procedure for a tournament with a single classification panel awarding NE class status:

1. Upon notification that an NE Sport Class Status has been awarded to an athlete, the Chief Classifier will advise the athlete/team that further evaluation will be conducted by a second Classification Panel out of competition, to be appointed by the USQRA Head of Classification as soon as logistically possible.
2. The Chief Classifier will advise the USQRA Head of Classification of the NE decision.
3. The athlete/team will be advised that they will need to submit video evidence for observation assessment and any additional evidence to the IWRF Head of Classification who will then provide this information to the appointed panel.
4. In circumstances where video footage is required to complete the observation assessment, video footage submitted should be no more than 12 months old, and ideally shows the athlete competing at the tournament where the decision was made and/or at a tournament of a similar level, and giving maximal effort. These same conditions apply if the athlete or team wishes to submit additional video footage as evidence.
5. The USQRA Head of Classification should convene a panel of classifiers for an out of competition evaluation, of equal or greater certification level than those who awarded the NE R Sport Class.
6. The USQRA Head of Classification will advise the athlete/team representative when the second panel will be convened and will provide a deadline for their submission of further evidence, which should be no less than four weeks prior to the date of evaluation.
7. When evidence has been received, the USQRA Head of Classification will provide the evidence to the second Classification Panel.
8. The second Classification Panel will be permitted to undertake evaluation of the athlete with reference to all available classification information, including the decision or process undertaken by the first Classification Panel.
9. The second Classification Panel will complete the evaluation as soon as practicable and will consider the evidence provided and deliberate using any means at the sole discretion of the USQRA, such as e-mail or conference call.
10. As soon as a decision has been reached, the second Classification Panel will advise the USQRA Head of Classification of the outcome.
11. The USQRA Head of Classification will advise the athlete/team of the outcome of the second evaluation.

Procedure for a classification panels that do not uphold the NE decision of the previous panel:

1. **Previous sports class status is N prior to NE decision.**
 - The panel allocates a Sports Class based on the outcome of their evaluation. The panel should designate a Sports Class Status of R. The athlete must undergo evaluation prior to any subsequent USQRA tournament where classification is available unless otherwise specified by the USQRA.

2. Previous sports class status is R prior to the NE decision.

- The previous Sports Class and Sports Class Status R are reinstated. The athlete must undergo evaluation prior to any subsequent USQRA tournament where classification is available unless otherwise specified by the USQRA.

3. Previous sports class status is FRD(1) or FRD(2) prior to the NE decision.

- If the athlete entered the tournament with FRD(1) Sports Class Status, the panel should designate a Sports Class Status R following the completion of the observation assessment using video footage. If the panel is able to confirm the eligible sport class during the same tournament through on-court observation, the athlete is awarded FRD(2) Sports Class Status, provided there is no change to the previous sports class. The athlete must undergo further evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed review date.
- If the athlete entered the tournament with FRD(2) Sports Class Status, the panel should designate a Sports Class Status R following the completion of the observation assessment using video footage. If the panel is able to confirm the eligible sport class during the same tournament through on-court observation, the athlete is awarded C Sports Class Status, provided there is no change to the previous sports class.
- If the second panel makes a change to the athlete's Sports Class (Final Sport Class is different from the athlete's Entry Sport Class), the panel should designate a Sports Class Status R following the completion of the observation assessment using video footage. If the panel is able to confirm the eligible sport class during the same tournament through on-court observation, then the Sports Class Status will reset to FRD(1). The athlete must undergo further evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed review date.

An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the USQRA or a Classification Panel (if delegated by USQRA) because that Athlete has:

1. an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or ^[L]_[SEP]
2. a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition; ^[L]_[SEP]

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in USQRA wheelchair rugby.

B. Classification Forms

B.1. Athlete Classification Form

USQRA CLASSIFICATION FORM									
Name (Last)		Team/No.			Class		Status		
Name (first)		City			Fixed Review Date				
Diagnosis		Level of Injury			DOB				
Prior Rugby Class		Yrs Experience			Active		Female		
Class for other sport		Onset			<16		>45		
Dominance (R/L)					Examined in playing chair?				
Deltoid					Strapping				
Pectoralis Sternal					Belly Binder				
Pectoralis Clavicular					Hip/ Pelvic Belt				
Latisimus					Knee Strap				
Serratus					Foot Strap				
Internal Rotators					Spinal Deformity				
External Rotators					Contractures				
Biceps					Surgery				
Triceps					Spasticity				
Wrist Extension					Ability to Stand				
Wrist Flexion					Ability to ambulate				
Lumbricals					Sensory Level				
Finger Extension					Trunk: Highest Passed Trunk Function Test				
Finger Flexion					TRUNK TOTAL:				
Interossei					HAND TOTALS:				
Thumb Abduction					Classified by/location/ date:				
Thumb Adduction									
Thumb Extension									
Thumb Flexion									
Thumb Opposition									
UPPER EXTREMITY TOTALS									
RIGHT UE		+ Left UE		+ Total UE		/2 =		+ trunk	
					= TOTAL CLASS				
Remarks:									

Comment: This form is an example only. Classifiers, please download the most current form from the USQRA website for tournament use.

B.2. Major Minor Criteria Scoring Form

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

Scoring Major and Minor Criteria

Not Eligible = ≥ 1 major criteria and/or ≥ 3 minor criteria

- If the athlete has 1 or more major criteria, the athlete is Not Eligible (NE).
- If the athlete has no major criteria, but has 3 or more minor criteria, the athlete is Not Eligible (NE).

Eligible = ≤ 2 minor criteria

- If the athlete has 0, 1, or 2 minor criteria, the athlete is Eligible.

B.3. Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form

Updated April 2017

Athlete details (please print)

Preferred family/last name(s)	Preferred given/first name(s)	Date of Birth
Team		
 	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male

For an athlete to compete in USQRA tournaments, the athlete must be evaluated by USQRA certified classifiers and receive a sport class.

Failure or inability to cooperate, or inability to comply with instructions of the classifiers will result in suspension of classification and no sport class allocation. The athlete will not be able to compete in tournaments sanctioned by USQRA.

If the athlete finds his/her ability to cooperate with the USQRA classifiers is limited by pain, the athlete must agree to a full athlete evaluation in order to receive a sport class regardless of that pain. In so doing, the athlete agrees to indemnify the classifiers from any pain and suffering caused by the testing. If pain does not permit full cooperation and the ability to give full effort, classification may be suspended. The athlete must immediately report any pain or discomfort that occurs during or after testing to classifiers.

Classification trainees may be present. The classification panel will notify the athlete and support staff during the athlete and panel introductions.

The following is an agreement by the athlete to undergo a physical, technical and observation assessment. I,

Please print full name

If Athlete under age 18, Parent or Legal Guardian

------	------

require classification at this USQRA tournament and agree to the following:

I understand the classification process involves a physical, technical and observation assessment. I understand that to receive a sport class I must be willing to take part in all three assessments and to cooperate fully with the classifiers.

I understand video recording and photography may be used as part of the classification process and agree to this.

I understand Classifiers in training may be present and these trainees may perform part or all of the assessments under the direct supervision of an USQRA Classifier and agree to this.

I understand that to conduct the full athlete evaluation, USQRA classifiers must examine all relevant movements, muscle groups and body segments. I agree to undertake these tests, and I agree that the classifiers are indemnified from any pain and suffering I may experience in the course of the test. I also agree to advise the classifiers immediately of any pain or discomfort that occurs during or after testing.

Athlete signature

Parent or Legal Guardian signature, if athlete under age 18

Witness/coach/team representative signature

Date

B.4. Protest Form



Updated April 2017

Athlete protested

Preferred family name(s) / Last name/s	Preferred given name(s) / First Middle Name/s	
Team	Current Sport Class	Current Sport Class Status
Protest lodged by	Designation/Role	Team

Protest and protest fee received by	Designation/Role	Signature

Reason for Protest

Please refer to the USQRA Classification Manual for protest requirements. Clear, concise evidence should be provided. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Athlete last name, first name:

Accepted/declined

Protest accepted

☐

Scheduled time and place for re--evaluation

Protest declined

☐

Specify reason

Chief Classifier Signature			
Chief Classifier Name		Time and date received	

Outcome of protest

Event where protest evaluation occurred

Date

Time

--	--	--

Sport class changed

☐

Sport class after protest resolution

Sport class unchanged

☐

Sport class status after protest resolution

Chief Classifier signature

Athlete/Team representative signature

Athlete/Team representative name

Sport class changed --- protest fee refunded

Refunded by		Signature	
Date		Time	

Athlete last name, first name:

Summary protest decision. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Classification Panel Name

Certification

Classifier 1			Signature	
Classifier 2			Signature	
Classifier 3			Signature	

Additional Members

PCR		<input type="checkbox"/>	Declined		Signature				
EBM/LOC		<input type="checkbox"/>	Declined	<input type="checkbox"/>	Notified	<input type="checkbox"/>	Present	Signature (if present)	

Receipt of classification protest fee submitted

Receipt of classification protest fee refunded

Amount		Amount	
Signed (Team)		Signed (Team)	
Signed (USQRA)		Signed (USQRA)	
Time/Date		Time/Date	

B.5. Medical Review Request Frequently Asked Questions and Form

1. Who should make a Medical Review Request?

- 1.1. A Medical Review Request needs to be submitted for Athletes with sport class status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD), if the their impairment and sport specific activity limitations are no longer consistent with their current sport class.

2. A Medical Review Request is to be submitted if:

- 2.1. An athlete's relevant impairment or sport specific activity limitation has become less severe, either through medical interventions or other means. Examples of such interventions include, but are not limited to, Botox injections to reduce hypertonia or to increase active range of movement, tendon releases, or Harrington rods or joint fixations to assist posture/stability; or if
- 2.2. An Athlete's impairment is progressive and has deteriorate to an extent that the athlete most likely does not fit his/her current sport class anymore.

3. Making a Medical Review Request

- 3.1. The Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete with the support of the Athlete's Coach and includes:
 - 3.1.1. The Medical Review Request Form, completed legibly and in full;
 - 3.1.2. The completed medical review form must be submitted with any supporting medical documentation;
 - 3.1.3. Attached medical documentation should support that the Athlete's impairment has changed after the last time the athlete underwent athlete evaluation.
- 3.2. The USQRA Head of Classification must receive the Medical Review Request at least one month before the next competition where the athlete intends to compete.
- 3.3. Contact the USQRA Head of Classification to submit requests:
 - 3.3.1. Email: Classification@quadrugby.com

4. Consequences of a Medical Review Request

- 4.1. Following careful review, if the USQRA is convinced of a change in impairment or activity limitation, the athlete's sport class will be changed to review.
- 4.2. Consequently, the athlete will be asked to undergo athlete evaluation again at the next opportunity.
- 4.3. Re-evaluation does not guarantee that the change in impairment or activity limitation is sufficient for the sport class of the athlete to change.

5. Consequences of a Not Making Medical Review Request

- 5.1. Any failure to make a Medical Review Request in circumstances where the USQRA determines that:
 - 5.1.1. a Medical Review Request should have been made, and
 - 5.1.2. that the athlete should have known a Medical Review Request ought to have been made, for example, an athlete's relevant impairment or sport specific activity limitation has become less severe, either through medical interventions or other means, may result in the USQRA treating this failure as being intentional misrepresentation on the part of the athlete (See Article 8 in these rules, Intentional Misrepresentation).

USQRA MEDICAL REVIEW FORM

Athlete Details

Last Name:				
First Name:				
Date of Birth:		Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
Sport Class:		Sport Class Status:		

Team Details

Team Name:	
Coach or Team Contact	

Next Scheduled Competition

Tournament Name:	
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Location (City and State):	

Details of the change in impairment and underlying health condition: to be completed by a medical doctor with relevant expertise.

Intervention Details (if applicable):

Date of the Intervention:	
Description of intervention:	
Reason for the intervention and expected outcomes:	

_____ I confirm that the above information is accurate.

Name:	
Medical Specialty:	
Address:	

Athlete last name, first name:

Description of the change in impairment (in case of a progressive or fluctuating impairment and/or injury.)

Date of Onset:	
Description of change in impairment, How has this change impacted your ability to perform wheelchair rugby sport specific activities?	

Supporting documents attached (please list; for example, MRI, X-rays, EMG, Medical History):

Contact Person submitting the medical review request:

Name:			
Function:	_____ Athlete	_____ Coach	_____ Team Representative
Fee submitted:	_____ Yes	Describe how fee submitted – cash, check, Paypal, or other:	
E-Mail:			
Signature:			

B.6. Access to Athlete Classification Information Form



Updated April 2017

Preferred family/last name(s)	Preferred given/first name(s)	Middle name/s
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Date of birth (Month/day/year)	Gender	Team
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Telephone (home)	Telephone (work)	Telephone (mobile/cell)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Email	Fax
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Event where classification last occurred	Date (Month/day/year)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Intended recipient(s) of classification information	Designation/role
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Declaration

I consent to the disclosure of information relating to my classification examination to the designated recipient(s) as listed above.

Note: Due the confidential nature of this information, classification documentation will only be accessed and released directly to the athlete, when requested by mail or electronically.

Athlete signature

<input type="text"/>

Witness/guardian/coach/team representative signature (if athlete is a minor)

<input type="text"/>

Date

<input type="text"/>

An administrative fee may be assessed to cover the costs of sending forms through regular paper mail.

B.7. Tournament Classification Schedule

TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

[Insert Tournament Name and Location] [Insert Tournament Year]

Classification – [Insert Dates] (Insert Location)

[illegible]

B.8. Tournament Classification Results

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Entry Sport Class	Entry Sport Class Status	Final Sport Class	Final Sport Class Status	Tracking Code US(1), US(2), CNC	Effective Date, if Final Sport Class Changed

Entry Sport Class – Sport Class to enter play after physical and technical tests

Entry Sport Class Status – Sport Class Status to enter play, usually Review (R)

Final Sport Class – Sport Class at the end of the tournament

Final Sport Class Status – Sport Class status at the end of the tournament, and if relevant the Fixed Review Date (FRD)

R - Sport Class Review = Sport Class is under review

C - Sport Class Status Confirmed = third consecutive classification completed with no change in sport class, no further classification required



N - Sport Class Status New = player with no previous USQRA sport class



US(1) - National Class Approved 1st 3 year Fixed Review Date = first classification completed



US(2) - National Class Approved 2nd 3 year Fixed Review Date = second classification completed



Effective Date for Sport Class Change – date for sport class change to take effect, If sport class change decision for US(1) or US(2) takes place after the tournament timeline for making a sport class change

B.9. Temporary Paper Cards

	USQRA Temporary Card
	
Name: _____	
Team: _____	
Classifiers: _____	

	USQRA Temporary Card
	
Name: _____	
Team: _____	
Classifiers: _____	

	USQRA Temporary Card
	
Name: _____	
Team: _____	
Classifiers: _____	

	USQRA Temporary Card
	
Name: _____	
Team: _____	
Classifiers: _____	

B.10. Template for Receipts

United States Quad Rugby Association			
Paid by:		Paid to: USQRA Classification	
Description			Amount
Date:	Received by:		

United States Quad Rugby Association			
Paid by:		Paid to: USQRA Classification	
Description			Amount
Date:	Received by:		

United States Quad Rugby Association			
Paid by:		Paid to: USQRA Classification	
Description			Amount
Date:	Received by:		

C. Classification Guidelines

C.1. Guideline to Testing the Trunk

1. The trunk test is designed to test impairment of the trunk. For the most valid interpretation of the trunk test, the Classifier needs to be aware of the underlying health condition leading to trunk impairment and all the measures of impairment in the trunk tests need to be consistent with the underlying health condition.
 - 1.1. This is similar to what Classifiers do when testing impairment in motor power of the arms. For example, if an athlete presents with the underlying health condition spinal cord injury at level C6, atrophy of the muscles of the forearms and the hands are observed and the manual muscle testing of the arms shows values of 0-1 for finger flexion and extension, these two components match up. The Classifiers can then be confident that the test results reflect permanent impairment in motor power and the arm value is 2.0.
 - 1.2. However, if an Athlete's underlying health condition is spinal cord injury at level T1, there is no atrophy of the muscles in the forearms and minimal atrophy of the muscles in the hand observed, yet the Athlete is unable to open or close the hand during manual muscle testing, these do not match up and there is a chance that the test result does not reflect permanent impairment in muscle power.
 - 1.3. In this case, the Classifiers need further information before they can assign a value to the arm. This additional information may be additional medical history or diagnostic information, for example, spasticity or pain offers an explanation for the inability to open and close the hand. Furthermore, Classifiers perform sport specific activity testing to assess if the hand is consistently opened and closed when performing activities. Only if the Classifiers conclude there is consistency in the presentation of the impairment, and there is an explanation provided by the underlying health condition leading to the impairment, will the arm be valued as 2.0.
 - 1.4. If there are inconsistencies, for example, the athlete cannot open and close his hand on request for manual muscle testing, but the athlete does open and close the hand during activities, the evaluation session cannot be conducted in a fair manner and athlete evaluation must be suspended in accordance with Article 8.4 in these Classification rules. In this case, the allocated sport class status is Non-Cooperative (NC), according to Article 8.3.
2. The trunk tests should be interpreted in the same manner as the testing of the arms.
 - 2.1. For example, if an athlete with bilateral below knee amputations caused by trauma, cannot perform trunk test number 5 (lateral flexion), this is not consistent with the underlying health condition, because the trunk is not impaired following amputation of the legs (if there is normal muscle strength and range of motion of the hips, normal strength and range of motion of the trunk, and a normal sitting surface). In that case, Classifiers should not stop after test number 5 and value the trunk as 0.5.
 - 2.2. If for example, this athlete provides medical information that the spine was also involved in the accident, leading to incomplete spinal cord injury at an upper to mid-thoracic level, the inability to perform test 5 is based on permanent impairment in motor power, the trunk testing is done, and the trunk score is 0.5.
 - 2.3. If the athlete cannot provide information about an additional underlying health condition that causes impairment in the trunk, the inability to perform test 5 is not based on a verified impairment and the classifiers can continue with additional testing. This testing can proceed not only through test 6-8, but also observation of activities. If there are inconsistencies for example, there seems to be active lateral flexion of the trunk in sport specific activity testing, the trunk score 0.5 should not be awarded.

C.2. Guideline to Physical Assessment of Athletes with Limb Deficiency

Upper limb scores for athletes with amputation or congenital limb deficiency

The following tables reflect point values for limbs in the assessment of athletes with acquired or congenital limb deficiency, according to a review of the IWRF Classification Database. These are guidelines only.

Arm descriptors:

0	Shoulder disarticulation or completely non-functional upper limb
0.5	Above elbow amputation up to 2/3 of the humeral length
1.0	Above elbow amputation greater than 2/3 of humeral length, through elbow, or below elbow up to 1/3 of ulnar length
1.5	Below elbow amputation greater than 1/3 of ulnar length up to trans-carpal amputation
2.0	Below wrist amputation with some palmar surface area up to full palmar surface area but no useful phalanx length
2.5	Below wrist amputation with some or all palmar surface area and some functional finger/thumb movement that enhances ball control.

Hand descriptors:

2.0	Normal to almost normal palmar surface, no fingers longer than (partial) proximal digits and no thumb. No hook grasp or span grasp.
2.5	Normal to almost normal palmar surface, one or more fingers full proximal phalanx or middle phalanx, no or very short thumb. Hook grasp, but no spherical or span grasp.
3.0	Normal to almost normal palmar surface, one or more digits length including middle phalanx, not only being index finger and limited to normal thumb length. Hook grasp, limited spherical or span grasp.

Measurement of Limb Deficiency

1. Measurement of loss of limb deficiency should be taken in centimeters and recorded to the nearest millimeter (for example 29.3 cm) and a rigid tape measure or limb segmometer (whichever is available) should be used to conduct the assessment, preferably a caliper device or segmometer which can be obtained from USQRA.
2. One classification panel member should take the role of measuring, another member takes the roles of recorder, and the third member may be required to assist with specific tasks as required.
3. Measurement figures should be described in detail on the classification form. Figures of measurement should be accounted for from the distal point of the residual limb to the next marked measuring point on the body. The relevant parts of all limbs must be measured.
4. All segment measures should be recorded at least twice. The mean of the two measures is recorded, provided the difference between the two measures is less than or equal to 3mm (0.3cm). If the difference is greater than 3mm (0.3cm) a third measure should be taken and the median measure used as required. To determine the median measure, list the measures from lowest to highest, and select the middle measure.
5. A points system (above) is used to allocate a class profile to the relevant limb. When a corresponding segment is not available for comparison to allocate points and/or the athlete does not fit a profile, mathematical calculations based on the body segment parameters may be used as a guideline for allocation of the score.
6. Residual limb or limb deficiency length measurement assessment should take into consideration the following:
 - 6.1. When taking measurements for double above knee amputees/dysmelia (as part of the trunk tests) take the measurement from the point of the elbow [midpoint of the olecranon process] to the tip of the middle finger. The rationale for this measurement is that when the femur is intact, the length from the greater trochanter to the lower end of the femur is the same as from the olecranon process to the tip of the middle finger.
 - 6.2. When assessing dysmelia ensure that each limb segment is measured on both sides.
 - 6.3. If the athlete has a hand amputation/dysmelia, trace the hand dimension of both hands on a plain piece of paper. Record the measurements on this sheet along with the athlete's name/team/date of birth. Identify right and left. Include this information with the classification sheet.
7. The anatomical diagram shows the measurement points for limb measurement. Measurement should take place from the distal point of the limb extremity to the measuring point above. All measurements are to be made in centimeters.

Comment to Guidelines for Limb Loss: These are guidelines to assist Classifiers in confirming the Sport Class allocated through the Eligibility Test, Bench Test, Technical Assessment and if required, the Observation Assessment. These are guidelines ONLY to assist in measuring impairment and impact on sport specific activity for Sport Class allocation. See the IWRF website for the most up to date procedures for limb deficiency.

Note 1:

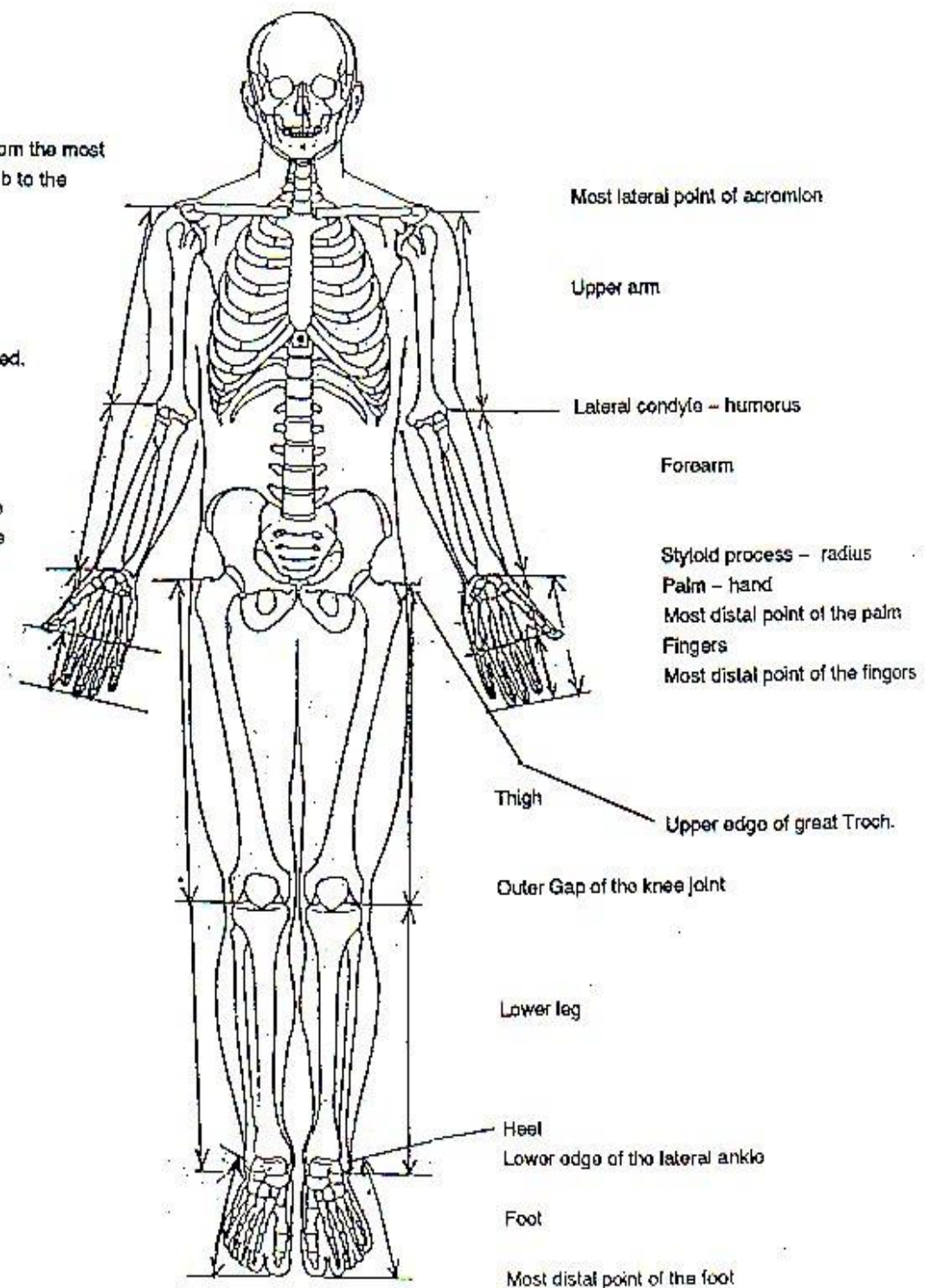
The measuring must be done from the most distal point of the amputated limb to the next anatomical point above

Note 2:

The relevant part of the other arm or leg must also be measured.

Example:

If a person has a right side below knee amputation, the stump will be measured from the most distal point of the stump to the outer gap of the knee joint. Additionally the left lower leg must be measured from the lower edge of the lateral ankle to the outer gap of the knee joint. From the figures of the two measurements, it can be worked out what part of the lower leg is remaining [1/4, 1/3, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4]



C.3. Guideline to Classification Scheduling

This guideline has been developed to ensure the integrity of the classification process, and aims to make sure that there is adequate time for assessment, panel deliberation and communication with the athlete/team regarding classification decisions.

Under provisions outlined in USQRA Classification Manual (2017) Article 17.5, the Chief Classifier has the right to limit the number of athletes that can reasonably be accommodated at a tournament and prioritize athletes for classification. Developing a priority list of athletes to be evaluated at a tournament manages the classification workload in the fairest manner.

The USQRA has allotted a 45-minute evaluation session for each athlete at tournaments recognized by the USQRA for Classification.

There may be situations where not all athletes who are up for classification can reasonably be evaluated in the time allocated at a tournament.

The priority levels for classification should be as follows:

1. New athletes (N);
2. Athletes with Review status (R) carried over from a previous tournament (R) and Protests lodged prior to the start of the tournament; and
3. Athletes with existing USQRA US (1) and US (2) sports classes with Fixed Review Date up for three-year rechecks.

Note: Protests lodged once the tournament has started are prioritized at the discretion of the Chief Classifier.

Managing Protest Scheduling

Protests lodged prior to the commencement of the tournament should be allocated the same priority as athletes entering the tournament with Review status (priority level 2)

Protests lodged during the tournament can be managed at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, based on an assessment of the urgency of the protest, the workload of classifiers, and the composition of the panel.

If there is only one panel at the tournament and this panel made the decision being protested, the protest must be deferred to the next available opportunity or may be withdrawn and lodged at a later date at another tournament.

Prioritizing Scheduling if High Workload

When it is not possible to evaluate all athletes due for classification, teams may be asked to submit a priority list for classification:

- This request should be submitted to the Chief Classifier as soon as possible after the classification schedule is distributed to teams prior to the tournament, which will determine which athletes with existing US (1) and US (2) sport classes will be scheduled.
- If team rosters are not submitted in a timely manner, or if teams make roster changes in the week before the tournament begins, the team may not be able to submit a priority list or priority requests may not be logistically possible.

While all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate team classification priorities, the Chief Classifier reserves the right to make the final determination which athletes will be allocated the available evaluation session times.

C.4. Guideline to Completing Athlete Classification Form

General Instructions for completing the USQRA classification form

1. Write in a clear handwriting, preferably print and not cursive.
2. Do not use any abbreviations or symbols that are not commonly used.
3. The names of all panel member should be fully spelled out, no initials or signatures.
4. Always use a new blank classification form for each classification.. The previous classificaton form should be available for review. Do not write on a previous classification form
5. After you finish the classification check the form again to make sure it is complete before giving the classification form to the Chief Classifier.

Specific Points to verify on the classification form

1. "Experience since" box on form should have a date (for example, since 04/11).
2. Check that the R sport class status is removed from the form if the athlete had a complete and finished classification, for example, FRD and date, and US(1), US(2).
3. Check that the C sport class status is added if the athlete is confirmed, or permanent, after this classification.
4. This total class section should mention the mathematical value, even if it is between two sport classes, for example, 2.25 or 3.75.
5. The final sport class allocated at the completion of the full evaluation should be in the box for sport class at the top right of of the page. Sport class status should be in the box for sport class status at the top right of the page.

Remarks Box

1. Always start with any specifics about the classification process, for example if it was a protest, a NC (R) or a NE (R) evaluation.
2. Include the sport class status the athlete was given, for example, fixed review date FRD 01/20, and include US(1), US(2).
3. Comment if athlete had a sport class change from a previously assigned class, or any changes in sport class status, for example, write the rationale for why R sport class status was maintained.
4. Do not write any personal notes or working notes in the remarks box. For example, "need to watch pushing on court" or "observed using fingers on cell phone in the hotel" should not be written on the classification form.
5. Do not write any general remarks on the form, such as "typical 2.0" or "pushes like a 0.5", instead write the characteristic activities that were observed to make the sport class decision.

Suggestion for a minimum of characteristic activities to describe in remarks

1. For low point athletes (0.5/1.0/1.5)
 - a. Sitting position
 - b. Propulsion/ quality of movement
 - c. Stop/ start/turn
 - d. Pick/hold
 - e. Ball activities, if any observed
2. Mid point athletes (2.0/2.5)
 - a. Stop/ start/ turn
 - b. Pick/hold
 - c. Passes (two handed/ one hand)
 - d. Catching

3. High point athletes (3.0/3.5)

- a. Overhead game
- b. One handed ball activities
- c. Use of trunk (acceleration/ change of direction/ hit/ stability/ hopping)
- d. Multi-tasking ability

C.5. Guideline to USQRA Classification Cards

GUIDELINE FOR COMPLETING OFFICIAL PLASTIC CLASSIFICATION CARD

After the Panel makes a decision on the Entry Sport Class, create the official USQRA Plastic Classification Card. If the athlete does not have the card fee or photo, make a temporary card for that tournament only. Do not make a plastic card until the athlete provides the fee and photo to make the plastic card.

Filling out the Plastic Card (see Figure 2)

1. A permanent black marker should be used to complete the blank sections on the card.
2. The marker point should be medium to fine size, to ensure all words are eligible.
3. A large bold black marker should be used to write the athlete's sport class or competition class in the center card space.
4. Write the athlete's first/given name then last/family name.
5. Write City or Location of Team (there may be some exceptions where only Team name is listed).
6. If this is the athlete's last evaluation, once the sport class and sport class status is finalized, write Confirmed Sport Class Status C next to the sport class.
7. For an Athlete who qualified for an adjusted sport class or competition class, write the athlete's actual Sport Class in the top left in large bold black marker:
 - a. Female athletes (0.5 deduction),
 - b. Athletes under age 16 (0.5 deduction),
 - c. Athletes 45 or over (0.5 deduction), and
 - d. Athletes over 65 (0.5 deduction).
8. Sport class status C is added in the center space with large bold black marker when the sport class is confirmed.
9. To complete the last section:
 - a. Date and event classified (write all events with month and year, for example, BOW 11/16)
 - b. Write names of most recent panel (first initial and last name).
 - i. Classifier who did physical assessment is listed first.
 - ii. DO NOT put classifier certification levels on card, list certification levels on classification form.
 - c. Dates of protests are listed in the database.
 - d. If making a new card for a new athlete, there is no need to check database.
 - e. If making a replacement card, check the database.
10. If the athlete does not bring the fee and an appropriate photo or an old card with a photo to be reused, the Chief Classifier will create a temporary tournament only paper card, until the athlete provides a picture and fee for the classification card.
11. The back of the card may be used to indicate any specific equipment the athlete must use for medical reasons, such as limb protective devices. Classifiers must be notified of any change in equipment to update the card.

Completing the Card - Application of Photo and Card Laminate

12. The passport or comparable photo should be trimmed to fit in the photo space, and glued to the card using a glue stick or similar. If the athlete has no photo but has an older card, you can utilize the photo from the old card.
13. When all fields are completed, the laminating sheet can be applied to the front of the card. First remove the thin piece of backing paper from the edge of the laminating sheet and align this with the edge of the card. Once the exposed edge is stuck on the card, you can remove the rest of the backing, adhering it to the card and pressing to remove air bubbles as you stick it on the card.
14. If an athlete has a sport class change, make a new classification card with the updated class for no charge.

GUIDELINE TO COMPLETING TEMPORARY TOURNAMENT ONLY PAPER CARD

If an athlete has a plastic card but failed to bring the card, or needs a new card and does not have the card fee or photo, make a temporary card for that tournament only.

1. Write the Athletes Sport Class in the center block using large bold black marker.
2. For an Athlete who qualifies for an adjusted sport class or a competition class:
 - a. Write the athlete's actual Sport Class in the top left in black marker.
 - b. Write the Competition Class in the center with a large bold black marker.
 - i. Female athletes (0.5 deduction),
 - ii. Athletes under 16 years of age (0.5 deduction),
 - iii. Athletes 45 or over (0.5 deduction), and
 - iv. Athletes over 65 (0.5 deduction).
 - c. If sport class status is confirmed, add C.
3. Classifier names
 - a. Write first initial and last name of the classifiers.
 - b. List the Classifier who did the physical assessment first.
 - c. Classifier certification levels are NOT listed on card, but are listed on classification form.
4. Date
 - a. Abbreviation with month and year for which the card is valid; write Tournament name, date, and ONLY in large capital letters (for example BOE 11/16 ONLY).

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;">Sport Class</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto;">USQRA Temporary Card SPORT or COMPETITON CLASS and C STATUS ONLY</div>
Name: _____	
Team: _____	
Classifiers: _____	
Date: _____	

C.6. Guideline to USQRA Classification Card Fees

Card Fees and Fines

1. Athletes must have a valid USQRA plastic card to participate in USQRA sanctioned tournaments and those tournaments with a classification panel present.
2. Athletes must pay \$10 for a new plastic classification card.
 - 2.1. An official plastic card should not be made until the athlete pays the \$10 fee and provides a picture that can be applied to the official plastic card and laminated.
3. Athletes must pay \$15 for a temporary tournament only paper card.
 - 3.1. If the athlete fails to bring a photo for a new card, a temporary paper card is issued for use at that tournament only.
 - 3.2. The \$15 fee may be put toward the cost of the official plastic card, if the athlete produces a picture by the end of the tournament.
 - 3.3. If Athlete produces a photograph by the end of the tournament and an official plastic card is made, the athlete is refunded the \$5 difference in the temporary paper card and the official card.
 - 3.4. If the athlete does not produce a photograph by the end of the tournament, the athlete must pay \$10 whenever the official card is made.
4. If an athlete has a USQRA classification card but no longer has the card in his/her possession (for example, the classification card is lost), the athlete must pay a \$10 replacement card fee for a new plastic card and an additional fine of \$15. The total cost for a lost card replacement and fine is \$25.
5. If an athlete has a plastic card but failed to bring the card, you may make a temporary tournament only paper card. The charge for a temporary card is \$15 and is can be used only for the event where it is issued. Write the name of the event in bold letters on the paper card, for example, "For BOW 2015 Tournament Only." Refer to Appendix C.5 Guideline to USQRA Classification Cards.
6. Copy the page of temporary cards in Appendix B.9. Cut the cards and bring several temporary cards to use at any tournament where you are appointed as Chief.
7. If an athlete enters as New (N), once a decision on entry sport class is made, a plastic card may be issued, even if the athlete is still in review (R) for observation assessment on court.
 - 7.1. An official plastic card should not be made until the athlete pays the \$10 fee and provides a picture that can be applied to the official plastic card and laminated,
 - 7.2. If there is not time for the plastic card to be made to allow the athlete to take the court, a paper card may be issued until the plastic card can be made. The paper card is surrendered when the plastic card is made.
 - 7.3. If the athlete did not bring a photo, follow the procedure in article 2 of this guideline.
8. If a final decision on sport class is not made and the classification panel needs further observation to decide on the athlete's final sport class, the athlete may be issued a plastic card. The sport class status R is not written on the plastic card, but is recorded on the classification form and in the database.
9. Only Sport Class Status Confirmed "C" is written on the plastic card.
10. Once the athlete receives an official USQRA classification card, it is the athlete's responsibility to bring the card to every tournament. If the athlete, coach or responsible Athlete Support

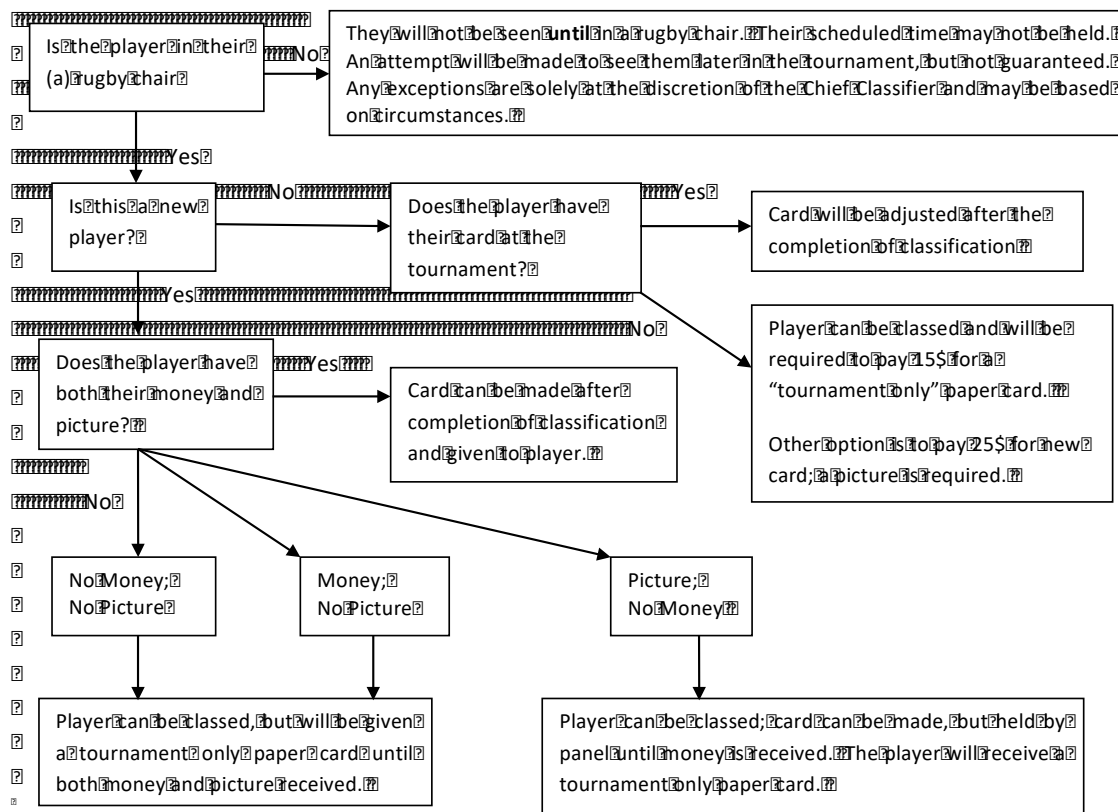
Personnel fail to bring an Athlete's card to tournaments, there will be a temporary tournament only paper card fee of \$15 for that tournament or if a card is lost, there will be a \$25 fee for a new USQRA card.

Guideline for Replacement Cards and Fees

1. If an Athlete has a USQRA Classification card that is damaged or otherwise no longer legible from normal wear and tear a new card must be made. In this case, there is no fee for a new Classification card and the Athlete may provide a new photo if so requested.
2. There is no fee for a replacement card for female or age sport class adjustments. If an Athlete has a USQRA Classification card and is entitled to a female and/or age adjustment and a new card needs to be made; there is no fee for a new Classification card and the Athlete may provide a new photo if so requested.
3. If an Athlete has an intact and legible USQRA Classification card and wants to provide a new photo and have a new card made, the Athlete pays the current fee for a new Classification card. The \$10 new card fee is charged if an Athlete requests a new card to replace a photo.

C.7. Reference Guide to Tournament Classification

CLASSIFIERS' TOURNAMENT QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

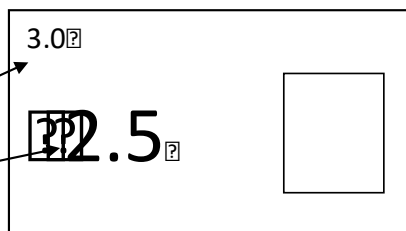


Card Documentation Layout

Ex: 246y/o 3.0 class player 2.5

TOP LEFT is the players Sport Class

Large CENTER number is Game Class



Card Documentation: 1st names who did physical assessment; level of classifiers IS NOT listed

Classification Form Documentation: 1st names who did physical assessment; level of classifier IS in parenthesis (#)

Classification Date: Denote tournament abbreviation with month and year when player was classed (BOE 1/11)

Sport Class Deductions: Taken after completion of regular classification process. **Deductions are cumulative**.**

Female players: 0.5	<16y/o 15y/o and younger: 0.5	>25y/o 46y/o & older: 0.5	>65y/o 66y/o & older: 0.5
EX: 246y/o 3.0 sport class female player: 3.0 sport class; (-0.5 female); and (-0.5 45y/o); and (-0.5 65y/o) - Game Class: 1.5			
A Competition Class CANNOT be below 0.0 class, regardless of number of deductions			

Price List

New Player/New Card: \$1.0 **Forgot Card @ Tournament: \$1.5 (paper tournament only card)**

Old Player/New Card: \$2.5 **Protest: \$5.0 with submission of protest documentation**

Sport Class Status

C = Confirmed (3 consecutive classifications with no change in sport class.

N = New (not yet evaluated to receive sport class) Starts after N removed; Protests are not included.

R = Review (requires further review to finalize sport class) **PR = Review With Fixed Review Date** (Required to

T = Temporary (Not seen by complete panel; provisional class only) **ma = major evaluation in three years**

C.8. Classifier Guideline to Tournament Logistics

Classifier Preparation before Tournaments

Classifiers are technical officials appointed by the USQRA to conduct classification as a member of a classification panel. Classifiers represent the USQRA and should aim to be professional in conduct and appearance in the classification area, at courtside, in the competition venue, and in public when serving in such an operational role for the USQRA. Casual professional dress is expected to provide uniformity and clear identification. USQRA classifier clothing may be purchased, though not mandatory.

Classifier Stipend

Each classifier serving on a USQRA authorized panel for a tournament will receive the current stipend as approved by the USQRA. During the season, this stipend will be paid out of a general fund of the USQRA or by the local tournament organizers. Post-season tournament stipends will be the responsibility of the tournament organizer.

Comment: In April 2005, the USQRA membership approved a stipend for classification panels at all tournaments, Effective Date 2005-2006 season. Increases in the stipend have been made from time to time. As of 2016-2017, the stipend for a Chief Classifier is \$200 and \$150 for a Classification Panel member.

Expenses and Reimbursement

Travel

All classifiers, who are not local residents where a tournament takes place, will be reimbursed for travel expenses from the USQRA fund during the season and by the tournament organizer of post-season tournaments during post-season play. The classifiers, who are not local residents, need to coordinate travel arrangements with the USQRA Head of Classification and/or tournament organizer. Taking into account the time requirements for classifiers to be in attendance at the tournament, travel arrangements should be made as cost efficient as possible.

Accommodations

All classifiers who require lodging will be housed in double accommodations, sharing a hotel room either with another classifier or another tournament official.

If a classifier prefers to have single accommodations or share double accommodations with a spouse or guest, the classifier is responsible for the 50% of the room cost not covered by the USQRA or tournament organizers. However, if this choice results in an uneven number of officials with a single classifier alone in a double room, the classifier requesting special accommodations must pay the full costs for a single accommodation or for sharing with a spouse or guest.

At a minimum, the tournament organizer or USQRA is responsible for the cost of one and a half rooms for classification personnel, if one three person panel is present, and three and a half rooms, if two panels (six classifiers) and a Chief Classifier are present. Exceptions to this will be at the discretion of the USQRA Head of Classification and considered on a case-by-case basis. Ideally, the chief classifier should have his/her own room and not be sharing, in order to manage administrative work and meetings. If, for example, there is no other official to share double accommodations with a third classifier, then the classifier will be in the room alone. In this situation, the USQRA or tournament organizers will pay the cost for two rooms.

Meals

Classifiers are responsible for paying for their meals while traveling and while attending an event. The Classifier stipend is provided to compensate for meals, special food accommodations, and incidental costs.

Tournament organizers may provide meals at the competition venue during the tournament. However, this is not consistent across all USQRA tournaments sanctioned for classification.

Breakfast may be provided if included as part of the hotel amenities at the accommodations organized for the event. However, this is not consistent across all USQRA tournaments sanctioned for classification.

D. Forms for Classifiers

D.1. USQRA Classifier Application Form

This is an exciting time to become involved with Wheelchair Rugby and we welcome your interest in becoming a USQRA Classifier. Please fill out the form below and return it at your earliest opportunity. You can refer to usqra.org for the email address of the Head Classifier in your geographic section of the US, or send this to the USQRA Head of Classification at the contact information below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Mobile: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Profession: (circle appropriate one) PT OT MD OTHER _____

Having experience in wheelchair rugby or other sport for persons with impairment is not required. If you do have previous experiences please list and describe:

Number of years in Wheelchair Rugby or other sports listed above: _____

Team Affiliation, if any:

Comments: _____

Wheelchair Rugby is an exciting, fast paced full-contact sport whose popularity grows throughout the world every year. We hope you consider this as a great opportunity and encourage you to get involved. We look forward to helping you get started and welcoming you into the wheelchair rugby family.

Thank you,

USQRA Head of Classification
Classification@quadrugby.com

Please note: If you are interested in becoming a Wheelchair Rugby classifier, it will require participation in classification training workshops to obtain certification and an annual time commitment to maintain certification through participation in classification in your area.

D.2. USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct

USQRA Classifiers are volunteers who are appointed as Technical Officials, with a personal responsibility for the application of the Classification Rules and Regulations during a USQRA wheelchair rugby competition.

In addition to the General Provisions of the USQRA Code of Conduct, Classifiers must:

1. comply with the USQRA Classifier Code of Conduct;
2. act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all Athletes;
3. perform their duties courteously, respectfully, objectively, competently, and consistently for all Athletes;
4. maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information and classification data in accordance with the classification rules of the USQRA, IWRF and IPC Classification Code;
5. declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest; and
6. must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition.

Classifiers are technical officials appointed by the USQRA to conduct classification as a member of a classification panel. When appointed by the USQRA, Classifiers represent the USQRA and, should aim to be professional in conduct and appearance in the classification area, at courtside, in the competition venue, and in public

Classifiers should avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at Competitions where they are acting as Classifiers. For example, when acting as a Classifier, the Classifier should not act as a Technical Official, such as a referee or other sport official, or as a member of a team, such as team support staff or equipment manager in that same Competition. Similarly, Classifiers must declare any pre-existing personal or professional relationship(s) that may give rise to the perception or possibility of that relationship affecting their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when acting as a Classifier.

The USQRA have the right not to appoint Classifiers who are in personal or professional relationships that might, in the view of the USQRA, give rise to an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.

Thereby accepting my position as an USQRA Classifier, I commit myself to uphold these principles.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

D.3. Classifier Certification and Development Forms

The following forms are used for classifier evaluation at each tournament and include:

1. Classifier Log
2. Classifier Certification Form
3. Classifier Certification Development Form

1. The Classifier Log is used to keep a record of all classification related activities.
2. The Classifier Certification Form is used to provide feedback to classifiers at each tournament and for certification, when a classifier meets the required competencies for a certification level. Any recommendation for certification at any level is subject to the approval of the USQRA Head of Classification.
3. The Classifier Development form is used to assist classifiers to formulate an action plan to develop required competencies for the next level of certification. This form is also used to assist with any competencies requiring remediation and restoration as a result of reduced or removed certification.

Classification Log

		# Athletes	# Teams Present	# Athletes Protested	Athletes Not Eligible	Role
Date						
Event/Location		Other classifiers?	Workshops	Chief Classifier	Comments	
Details						
		# Athletes	# Teams Present	# Athletes Protested	Athletes Not Eligible	Role
Date						
Event/Location		Other classifiers?	Workshops	Chief Classifier	Comments	
Details						
		# Athletes	# Teams Present	# Athletes Protested	Athletes Not Eligible	Role
Date						
Event/Location		Other classifiers?	Workshops	Chief Classifier	Comments	
Details						
		# Athletes	# Teams Present	# Athletes Protested	Athletes Not Eligible	Role
Date						
Event/Location		Other classifiers?	Workshops	Chief Classifier	Comments	
Details						
		# Athletes	# Teams Present	# Athletes Protested	Athletes Not Eligible	Role
Date						
Event/Location		Other classifiers?	Workshops	Chief Classifier	Comments	
Details						



CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION FORM

Updated August 2016

Classifier name	Present Level	Level Achieved

Skills	Comments
Professionalism	
Neutrality	
Time management	
Teamwork	
Writing Documentation	
Organizational abilities	
Muscle charting	
Observational skills	

Skills	Comments
Explanations	
Decision making	
Log book	
Knowledge of rules and regulations	
Teaching ability	
Experience	

Certifying Classifiers and Certification Levels

Tournament and Date

Comments



USQRA CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION DEVELOPMENT FORM

Updated August 2016

Date	Abilities requiring development	Action plan	Date achieved

