



Rio 2016 Classification Guide
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SUMMARY

This *RIO 2016 Paralympic Games Classification Guide* is designed to provide National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and International Federations (IFs) with information about the classification policies and procedures for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

All information contained in this classification guide was correct at the time of publication in November 2015. If necessary, updates will be posted on Rio Exchange (<https://rioexchange.rio2016.com>) for download by NPCs and IFs.

The official language of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is English. In translated versions of this guide, the English version shall prevail in case of discrepancy.

This guide covers the regulations for the assessment of athletes in the sport of wheelchair rugby and the exceptional circumstances in which classification will be required for review and new sport class status athletes in any other sport at the RIO 2016 Paralympic Games (for more detail, see section 'Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Zero Classification Policy').

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1 | SCOPE OF THE GUIDE

This guide is based on the following principles:

- The IPC is the supreme authority of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games
- The Rio 2016 Paralympic Games are governed by the IPC Handbook paralympic.org/the-ipc/handbook
- The planning and implementation of the Games is a shared responsibility between the IPC and the Rio 2016 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Rio 2016), in cooperation with the IFs who have jurisdiction over their sports on the Games schedule
- The relevant governing body of each sport (the IF) is responsible for the allocation and verification of athlete sport class and sport class status

The policies and procedures of this guide apply to all sports on the Paralympic programme and are valid for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games only. This guide overrules the IF classification rules and regulations on the matters specified in this guide. For all matters not specified in this guide, the IF classification rules and regulations, and ultimately the IPC Classification Code, shall apply.

2 | RIO 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES ZERO CLASSIFICATION POLICY

In 2014, the IPC Governing Board took a strategic decision to minimise the Games-time classification programme, thus reducing the impact of any last-minute classification decisions on athlete preparation. This fits an overarching approach that classification and sport class allocation must happen at an earlier stage of an athlete's career.

For the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, this implies that only athletes with an international sport class and a sport class status of confirmed (C) or with a review date after 31 December 2016 (R2017 or later) are eligible to compete. More detail can be found in the Rio 2016 Qualification Criteria (<http://www.paralympic.org/rio->

2016/qualification). Wheelchair rugby is granted an exception to this policy: in this sport, athletes with review (R) sport class status will also be eligible to compete.

All other athletes will not be eligible to compete at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Exceptions will be dealt with by the IPC Governing Board on a case-by-case basis (requests to be submitted to xavier.gonzalez@paralympic.org).

IFs have been consulted on the need to have classification panels available under the provisions of this policy, and Rio 2016 has been requested to have operational procedures in place to handle any request that might be forthcoming through the IPC and IF.

3 | CLASSIFICATION AT THE RIO 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES

This guide covers the regulations for the assessment of athletes in the sport of wheelchair rugby and any exceptional circumstances in which classification can be required for athletes at the RIO 2016 Paralympic Games in any other sport (exceptions granted for athletes with sport class status new (N) or review (R)).

The goal of the IPC, Rio 2016 and the IFs is to ensure that classification services at the Games will be of the highest quality and will be sport and athlete focused. All operations are based on the objective of providing the best possible working environment that ensures expedited and accurate classification for those athletes required to be present, with minimal interruption to athlete preparation.

3.1 PRE-GAMES CLASSIFICATION ACTIVITIES

IFs will be responsible for offering enough classification opportunities so that athletes have a fair chance of meeting the qualification criteria. NPCs will be responsible for helping their athletes attend these classification opportunities.

Each IF will be responsible for ensuring its classification master list is accurate, updated and is made available to NPCs.

NPCs will be responsible for verifying their athletes' classification information on the IF classification master list. NPCs should contact the IF in case the classification master list contains incorrect information (name, sport class, sport class status) and/or if an athlete is not included on the relevant list.

Rio 2016 will retrieve classification information from the IF classification master list after 30 June 2016. Any subsequent updates must be communicated directly by the IF to Rio 2016.

The deadline for final sport entries is 15 August 2016. After this date, all changes to athlete sport class data must be submitted to the IPC. These changes will be considered by the IPC in consultation with the respective IF; the NPC and Rio 2016 will be informed of the final decision.

NPCs should familiarise themselves with this guide and ensure that athletes attend classification as scheduled; bring required medical documentation, outfits and/or equipment as required by the IF rules; and participate fully in classification activities as requested by the IF classifiers.

3.2 CLASSIFICATION AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

NPCs must nominate a classification authorised representative for each sport in which they enter athletes (not applicable for equestrian, goalball, wheelchair fencing and wheelchair tennis). The Chef de Mission, Deputy Chef de Mission and Classification Authorised Representative take sole responsibility for communication with the IF, the IPC and Rio 2016 on classification matters.

NPCs must inform Rio 2016 of their classification authorised representative nominations by 30 June 2016 via the Classification Authorised Representative form available on Rio Exchange. Their local contact number will be provided to Rio 2016 at the nation's DRM meeting, to be held between 28 August and 5 September 2016.

4 | GAMES-TIME CLASSIFICATION ACTIVITIES

4.1 CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD

At the date of publication of this guide, classification evaluation periods are scoped to handle any unforeseen circumstance or exceptions. These are detailed in Table A.

Athlete classification will take place at the respective sport's competition or training venue with the exception of classification for athletes with a visual impairment (VI). This will take place in visual classification evaluation rooms located at the Paralympic Athletes' Village (PAV).

All athletes that are to undergo classification are required to arrive at the Games prior to the first day of the relevant classification evaluation period. Details on date and time to present for classification will be communication by each IF after 1 July 2016.

Athletes and NPCs, through the Chef de Mission, are responsible for ensuring athletes:

- Are present for classification at least 30 minutes before their scheduled classification time
- Bring all equipment, attire and medical information as requested by the IF classification rules and regulations. Note: some IFs may require that they receive medical information in advance of classification.
- Are accompanied by an interpreter if they do not speak English
- Are accompanied by no more than one member of the NPC delegation (other than interpreter). Athletes under 18 must be accompanied by a member of the NPC delegation.

If athletes do not meet the above requirements at the time of classification, the classification panel will not be able to perform classification, and consequently the athlete will not be allowed to compete at the Games. The chief classifier may decide to reschedule the athlete evaluation (time permitting).

TABLE A: CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD AND LOCATION

(TIME FRAMES IDENTIFIED WITH EACH IF TO DEAL WITH ANY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE, WHEELCHAIR RUGBY ASIDE)

| SPORT | CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD |
|--------------------|--|
| Archery | 7-8 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Athletics | 4-5 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm / Visual Impairment: 4-6 September |
| Boccia | 8 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Canoe | 10 September from 13:00 to 18:30 and 11 September from 09:00 to 17:00 |
| Cycling | 5 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm / Visual Impairment: 4-6 September |
| Equestrian | Not applicable |
| Football 5-a-side | 4-6 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Football 7-a-side | 3-4 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Goalball | Not applicable |
| Judo | 4-5 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm and 6 September from 9.00am to 12.00pm |
| Powerlifting | 7 September from 9.00am to 2.00pm |
| Rowing | 8 September from 9.00am to 12.30pm / Visual Impairment: 4-6 September |
| Sailing | 9 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Shooting | 6 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Swimming | 3-5 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm/ Visual Impairment: 4-6 September |
| Sitting Volleyball | 5 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm and 6 September from 9.00am to 12.00pm |
| Table Tennis | Not applicable |
| Triathlon | 5-6 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm/ Visual Impairment: 5-6 September |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wheelchair Basketball | 4-6 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Wheelchair Fencing | Not applicable |
| Wheelchair Rugby | 11-12 September from 9.00am to 6.30pm |
| Wheelchair Tennis | Not applicable |

‘Not applicable’ means that there is no games-time classification in this sport at all. Classification outcomes will be published by the times listed below at the Sport Information Desks (at the venue) and at the Classification Information Desk in the Sport Information Centre (SIC) at the PAV.

TABLE B: DAILY CLASSIFICATION SESSIONS AND OUTCOME POSTING

| SESSION TIMES | CLASSIFICATION OUTCOME POSTING DEADLINES |
|------------------|--|
| 9.00am - 12.30pm | 2.00pm |
| 2.00pm - 6.30pm | 8.00pm |

4.2 CLASSIFICATION COMPETITION PERIOD: FIRST APPEARANCE

In some sports and sport classes, observing competition is a part of athlete evaluation and the final sport class decision may only be made after athletes have been observed during their first appearance. First appearance is the first time athletes compete in an event during the Games competition period. In team sports, first appearance must take place during the preliminary rounds of competition. Athletes not observed during that period will not be eligible to compete in the elimination rounds.

Observation assessment applies only to athletes with a physical (PI) or intellectual impairment (II) competing in the following sports:

- Archery
- Athletics
- Boccia
- Canoe
- Cycling

- Football 7-a-side
- Sailing
- Sitting volleyball
- Swimming
- Triathlon
- Wheelchair basketball
- Wheelchair rugby

First appearance results will be published at the Sport Information Desk (at the venue) within 15 minutes for individual sports and within one hour for team sports following the conclusion of the athlete's first appearance.

Athletes requiring observation assessment will be given a tracking code (CRS/CNS) following their athlete evaluation during the classification evaluation period. Upon completion of the observation assessment the athlete will be given a sport class and sport class status and the tracking code will be removed. In this way, athlete, NPC, IF and Rio 2016 know when the observation assessment has been completed.

4.3 RE-ENTRY AFTER CHANGES IN SPORT CLASS

If an athlete's sport class changes as a result of Games-time classification, the athlete must re-enter in the updated sport class and will be subject to the re-entry conditions outlined in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Sport Entries Manual and the applicable IF rules and regulations.

5 | ATHLETES WHO ARE FOUND NOT ELEGIBLE FOLLOWING GAMES-TIME ASSESSMENT

An athlete may be found not eligible (NE) following athlete evaluation at Games-time (during classification evaluation period assessment or after first appearance). There are three possible scenarios:

- I. If the athlete's sport class status was review or confirmed at the point of the delegation registration meeting (DRM), the accreditation status of the athlete will change from Aa to Ab. The athlete will be entitled to remain a part of the delegation but may not compete.
- II. If the athlete's sport class status was new at the point of the DRM, the athlete's accreditation will be cancelled and they will have to leave the PAV.*
- III. If an athlete is found NE following a decision resulting from the IPC rule on Intentional Misrepresentation of Skills and/or Abilities, the athlete accreditation will be cancelled and the athlete will be required to leave the PAV.*

Changes do not impact the overall team size and delegation quota as finalised in the DRM process, except if the NPC has no other eligible athlete at the Games. If this is the case, the entire NPC delegation will have their accreditations cancelled and must leave the PAV with the athlete.*

*Time frames (notification in morning – departure from PAV before 7.00pm; notification in afternoon – departure from PAV before 12.00pm next day).

6 | CLASSIFICATION PROTEST

Classification panel decisions may only be challenged by protests as defined in this guide. To be considered, all protests must be lodged in accordance with the policies and procedures detailed in this guide. An athlete may only be subject to a classification protest once during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, unless there is a protest under exceptional circumstances.

6.1 PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES

TABLE D: CLASSIFICATION PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES PROTESTS DURING CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD

| SPORT CLASS STATUS AT DRM | PROTEST BY OWN NPC | PROTEST BY OTHER NPC |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Confirmed or Review with a fixed date after 31 December 2016 | No | No |
| Review | Yes | No |
| New | Yes | No |
| Tracking status at entry of competition period | Protest by own NPC | Protest by other NPC |
| CRS | Yes, if not protested during the classification evaluation period | No |
| CNS | Yes, if not protested during the classification evaluation period | No |

NPCs can only submit protests regarding their own athletes:

- During the classification evaluation period, only if the athlete has undergone athlete evaluation during this period
- During the competition period, only if the athlete has undergone observation assessment and the athlete has not been subject to a protest during the classification evaluation period

An athlete may only be protested once during the Games, unless a protest under exceptional circumstances is made (art. 6.3).

6.2 PROTEST SUBMISSION BY NPC

If an NPC wishes to submit a protest about one of their athletes, the NPC must:

- Complete the relevant IF protest form in full and in English. This form is available at the Sport Information Desk in the competition venue and at the SIC in the PAV.
- Attach additional information to motivate the protest

- Pay the protest fee in cash at the equivalent Brazilian real rate of the amount identified in the most recent version of the IF classification rules and regulations. The protest fee is only refunded if the protest is upheld.

The protest submission must be completed before the protest deadlines, outlined in Table E.

TABLE E: DEADLINES FOR PROTESTS

| CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION | CLASSIFICATION OUTCOMES POSTED | PROTEST DEADLINE |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 9.00am - 12.30pm | 2.00pm | 5.00pm |
| 2.00pm - 6.30pm | 8.00pm | 9.00am (next day) |
| During competition (first appearance) | Individual sports: no later than 15 minutes after the completion of the event in which first appearance occurred | Within 15 minutes after results of first appearance are posted |
| | team sports: no later than one hour after the completion of the event in which first appearance occurred | |

Protests forms are available and protests can be submitted at the locations listed in Table F.

TABLE F. PROTEST SUBMISSION LOCATION

| | DURING CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD | DURING COMPETITION PERIOD |
|---|---|--|
| Athletes with physical or intellectual impairment | Competition Venue Sport Information Desk | Competition Venue Sport Information Desk |
| Athletes with visual impairment | PAV Sports Information Centre - Classification Desk | Not applicable |

6.3 PROTEST UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

A chief classifier may lodge a protest at any time, against an athlete of any sport class status, independent from the deadlines outlined in Table E. The chief classifier will not be required to pay a protest fee and may also lodge a protest against an athlete's sport class that has already been protested by an NPC during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

A chief classifier cannot initiate a protest under exceptional circumstances if their IF does not have the classification resources to resolve the protest immediately.

7 | CLASSIFICATION APPEAL

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

Any classification that is appealed at the Games must be directed to the IPC Board of Appeal, the appeal body available to NPCs and IFs for resolving classification issues for all sports at the Games. Classification appeals will only be dealt with when resulting from Games-time classification activities.

The by-laws of the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification are a part of Section 1, Chapter 2.8 of the IPC Handbook (IPC Handbook is a hyperlink to the IPC Handbook (Section1,Chapter2.8: paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/130620111653494_bylaws+board+of+appeal+of+classification_0.pdf.)

Appeal forms are available in the appendix of Section 1, Chapter 2.8 of the IPC Handbook.

8 | KEY DATES

TABLE G: KEY DATES

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 30 June 2016 | Deadline for NPCs to submit NPC Classification Authorised Representatives Form to Rio 2016 |
| 15 July 2016 | Rio 2016 online entries system opened to NPCs |
| 15 August 2016 | Final entries deadline |
| 31 August 2016 | Official opening of Paralympic Village |
| 3-12 September 2016 | Classification evaluation period (see section 4.1 - Classification Evaluation Period and Location) |
| 7 September 2016 | Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony |

9 | ADMINISTRATION

The person in charge of the provisions of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Classification Guide is:

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