

# **British Canoeing National Classification Rules and Regulations for Paracanoe**



## INTRODUCTION

### What is Classification?

In para-sport, athletes are grouped by the degree of activity limitation resulting from an impairment. A system is put in place to minimise the impact of an impairment(s) on an athlete's performance and to ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This system is called classification.

Classification establishes who can and cannot compete in para-sport and groups athletes into sport classes, depending on the degree to which their impairment impacts functional activities in each specific sport or discipline. This, to a certain extent, is similar to grouping athletes by age, gender or weight.

Classification follows a three steps process:

1. Does the athlete have one of the ten eligible impairments?
2. Does the athlete meet the minimum eligibility criteria specific to the sport they wish to compete in?
3. Which sport class should the athlete compete in?

The effectiveness of classification is a critical factor in ensuring the Paralympic Games and International Competition are an elite sport event. Identifying the most appropriate place for an athlete to undergo classification in each sport's pathway is also important for the effective promotion of participation in sport by disabled people.

### National Classification

As stated in the "IPC's Model of Best Practice: National Classification"<sup>1</sup>, it is considered best practice for athletes to undergo national classification prior to presenting for international classification.

National classification serves to determine whether an athlete has one of the ten eligible impairments and meets the sport's minimum eligibility criteria as early as possible in their career, allowing athletes competing in the UK to benchmark themselves against international standards. It is therefore critical that national classification rules, practices and outcomes mirror those of each sport's International Federation as much as possible.

National classification in the UK for athletes with a physical impairment is carried out by classifiers accredited by the UK's National Governing Bodies, which in the case of canoeing is British Canoeing. For Paracanoe in the UK national classification serves to determine an athlete's eligibility to compete in national events.

As stated in the "IPC's Model of Best Practice: National Classification", when allocating a national sport class to a "borderline" athlete (or in other words an athlete who is on the cusp of two different Sport Classes), national classifiers should allocate the Sport Class for athletes with less impairment.

Not every disabled athlete in the UK needs to be allocated a national sport class to participate in sport. National classification should only be offered to athletes to provide meaningful national competition – disabled people wishing to participate in sport at a

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/170216081042262\\_2017\\_02\\_16+Models+of+Best+Practice+National+Classification.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/170216081042262_2017_02_16+Models+of+Best+Practice+National+Classification.pdf)

purely recreation level may not need to undergo classification to do so.

National Governing Bodies should identify where in each sport's respective performance pathway is the most appropriate place to undergo national classification. British Canoeing have established this boundary at the National Regatta level with a differentiation Paddle-Ability competition and Paracanoe races, the latter of which requires an Athlete to undergo Classification. Paddle-Ability competitions accepts impairments that are outside of Paracanoe eligible impairments.

### **International Classification**

International classification is carried out by classifiers accredited by the International Federation (IF) for that sport. In the case of Canoeing this is the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

Athletes must undergo international classification to compete at international competitions sanctioned by the IF, including World Championships, European Championships, World Ranking events and other qualification events for the Paralympic Games. In every case and without exception, outcomes of international classification supersede outcomes of national classification.

### **British Canoeing's Responsibilities under the BPA UK Athlete Classification Code**

As laid out in the BPA's UK Athlete Classification Code, British Canoeing's responsibilities with regards classification are:

1. Respecting and abiding by the ICF Classification Rules and the UK Athlete Classification Code.
2. Establishing an effective classification strategy that delivers against each of these responsibilities, including the identification of an individual with appropriate time and budget to ensure its delivery.
3. Providing athletes and athlete support personnel with appropriate education regarding the classification process
4. Having policies and procedures that ensure the appropriate management, handling, sharing and storage of sensitive data submitted and created as part of the classification process
5. Maintaining a clear and well communicated process for athlete or athlete support personnel to raise queries around classification and to resolve any complaints or disputes with regard to classification at a national level
6. Sharing classification policies and procedures with the BPA and any examples of best practice with fellow NGBs and the BPA
7. Safeguarding athletes' welfare, including those that are retiring from the sport as a consequence of classification
8. Have a process for receiving and managing reports of Intentional Misrepresentation Reporting

Under the BPA Code, British Canoeing is also responsible for facilitating a National Classification process:

9. That mirrors the ICF's and allows us to identify which athletes are eligible to compete in the sport before allocating them a national sport class.
10. That includes a process which allows athletes to receive a second opinion if British Canoeing considers the athlete to have not met the sport's minimum impairment criteria.
11. That recruits and trains national classifiers to an appropriate standard.

When engaging with the ICF's classification processes, under the BPA's Code, British Canoeing is responsible for:

12. Supporting their athletes to give a true reflection of their impairment and ability during international classification evaluation
13. Supporting an athlete through the Protest or Appeal of an international sport class
14. Notifying the ICF in the event of a change in an athlete's condition (whether through a medical intervention or organically) that may impact on that athlete's sport class
15. Supporting the International Federation maintain compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

## **PURPOSE**

These National Classification Rules (hereinafter the "Rules") provide a framework within which the process of "Classification" will take place for Paracanoe within the UK under the auspices of British Canoeing. The term "Classification" refers to a structure for Competition the aim of which is to ensure an Athlete's Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure Athletes compete equitably with each other. The purpose of Classification is to minimise the impact of eligible Impairment types on the outcome of competition, so Athletes who succeed in competition are those with the best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to the best effect.

## **REFERENCES**

The Policy is written according to Model Rules consistent with the following documents:

- 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and accompanying International Standards - January 2017
- IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations – January 2016
- ICF Classification Rules and Regulations for Paracanoe - 2018
- BPA UK Athlete Classification Code – February 2018

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Adaptive Equipment:** Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

**Appeals:** The means by which a complaint that British Canoeing has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by ICF Paracanoe) or national level (as defined by British Canoeing) and any additional person who participates in Paracanoe at a lower level if designated by British Canoeing.

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these National Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

**Chief Classifier:** A classifier appointed by British Canoeing Head of Classification to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

**Classification Intelligence:** Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation or National Governing Body in relation to Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list made available by British Canoeing that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of Para Sport.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by the Head of Classification, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel:** Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

**Classification Committee:** A committee composed of the Head of Classification, a former Paracanoe paddler, the Paracanoe Performance Programme Head Coach, the Chief Medical Officer, national lead on Paddle-Ability and two or three independent members with extensive classification knowledge. The terms of reference for the Classification Committee are available on the British Canoeing website.

**Classification System:** The framework used by ICF Paracanoe and British Canoeing to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Paracanoe.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by British Canoeing to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which ICF Paracanoe must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities ICF Paracanoe deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by ICF Paracanoe.

**Code:** The Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance:** The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

**Continuing Education:** The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by ICF Paracanoe to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables British Canoeing to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Paracanoe, as detailed in these National Classification Rules.

**Eligibility Assessment Committee:** A Head of Classification body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by ICF Paracanoe relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by ICF Paracanoe to begin as a Classifier in the sport under its governance.

**Evaluation Session:** the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and allocation of 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 that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A single race.

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

**Head of Classification:** A person appointed by the British Canoeing Board to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for British Canoeing Paracanoe.

**Head of Governance and Compliance:** the Head of Governance and Compliance so appointed from time to time by British Canoeing;

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**Impairment:** A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Federation as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para sport and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

**ICF:** International Canoe Federation

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports. For Paracanoe the recognised International Sport Federation is the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

**International Standards:** A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**IPC Model of Best Practice:** A guidance document prepared by the IPC to promote the development and implementation of a National Classification Strategy and which is designed to provide recommended provisions for a National Classification Programme, including athlete classification opportunities, classifier training and certification, and monitoring Code compliance at the national level.

**Maintaining Certification:** The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that a National Body must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Review:** The process by which British Canoeing identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by an Athlete for a Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**National Classification Rules:** Also referred to as National Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by British Canoeing for Paracanoe in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**National Competitions:** A Competition where a National Governing Body or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**National Federation:** Refers to the national member of the International Canoe Federation (ICF). The UK member organisation is British Canoeing.

**National Governing Body:** independent organisations that govern their sports through the common consent of their sport.

**National Laws:** The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

**National Paralympic Committees:** The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC. The Great Britain and Northern Ireland member is the British Paralympic Committee.

**Athlete Self Protest:** A Protest made by an Athlete in respect of their own Classification.

**Non-Competition Venue:** Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by British Canoeing as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

**Observation in Competition:** The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in this document describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

**Physical Impairment:** an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

**Protest Documents:** The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by the British Canoeing, payable by the Athlete when submitting a Protest.

**Protest Form:** The form on which an Athlete Self Protest must be submitted.



**Protest:** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

**Protest Panel:** Classification Panel appointed by the Head of Classification to conduct a new Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Recognised Competition:** a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by British Canoeing.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

**Signatories:** Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by ICF Paracanoe by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

**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.

**Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA):** a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

**Underlying Health Condition:** a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

# **PART ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

## **1. Scope and Application Adoption**

- 1.1. These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'National Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by British Canoeing and align to the 2018 ICF Classification Rules and Regulations for Paracanoe.
- 1.2. The National Classification Rules have been adopted by the British Canoeing Governance Committee on 14 November 2019.
- 1.3. These National Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the National Classification Rules.
- 1.4. The National Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of National Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from British Canoeing and can be amended by British Canoeing from time to time.

### **Classification**

- 1.5. **Classification is undertaken to:**
  - 1.5.1. define who is eligible to compete in Para sport at national and/or international level; and
  - 1.5.2. group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

### **Application**

- 1.6. These National Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are not registered and/or licensed with ICF Paracanoe, and participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by British Canoeing.
- 1.7. These National Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of British Canoeing, including but not limited to individual discipline competition rules. In the event of any conflict between these National Classification Rules and any other rules, the National Classification Rules shall take precedence.
- 1.8. British Canoeing will only permit an Athlete to compete in Paracanoe in a National Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with ICF Paracanoe Classification rules or these National Classification Rules.
- 1.9. British Canoeing will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these National Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by British Canoeing). British Canoeing will advise Athletes and Clubs in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

## **Interpretation and Relationship to IPC Classification Rules and Regulations.**

- 1.10. References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these National Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these National Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these National Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these National Classification Rules.
- 1.11. References to a 'sport' in these National Classification Rules refer to "Paracanoe".
- 1.12. The Appendices to these National Classification Rules are part of these National Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by British Canoeing from time to time.
- 1.13. Headings used in these National Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.14. These National Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text and in a manner consistent with the 2018 IPC Classification Rules and Regulations for Paracanoe.

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 2.1. It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these National Classification Rules.

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

- 2.2. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
  - a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these National Classification Rules;
  - b) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - c) ensure, when appropriate, that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to British Canoeing at [classification@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:classification@britishcanoeing.org.uk)
  - d) cooperate with any investigations concerning possible violations of these National Classification Rules; and
  - e) actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.3. The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:
  - a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these National Classification Rules;
  - b) to use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - c) to assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and,
  - d) to cooperate with any investigations concerning possible violations of these National Classification Rules.

## **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.4. The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
- a) have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these National Classification Rules;
  - b) use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
  - d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these National Classification Rules.

## **PART TWO: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

### **3. Classification Personnel**

- 3.1. Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these National Classification Rules. British Canoeing will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of classification for Paracanoe nationally.

#### **Head of Classification (Head of Classification)**

- 3.2. The British Canoeing Board shall appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for British Canoeing.
- 3.3. If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, the British Canoeing Board may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification for the purposes of these rules.
- 3.4. The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier, although it is preferable.
- 3.5. The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by British Canoeing.
- 3.6. Nothing in these National Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

#### **Classifiers**

- 3.7. A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by ICF Paracanoe to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 3.8. National Classification maybe undertaken by level 3, 4 or 5 Classifiers, or by a Level 2 Classifier who is supervised by a level 3, 4 or 5 Classifier.
- 3.9. The ICF has 5 levels of classifier  
Level 1 – Introduction to ICF Classification System  
Level 2 - Trainee National Classifier  
Level 3 – National Classifier  
Level 4 – Trainee International Classifier  
Level 5 – International Classifier

## Chief Classifiers

- 3.10. A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by British Canoeing. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by British Canoeing to do the following:
- 3.10.1. identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
  - 3.10.2. supervise Classifiers to ensure these National Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
  - 3.10.3. liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 3.11. A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified British Canoeing officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

## 4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1. A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by ICF Paracanoe as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2. ICF Paracanoe will provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3. ICF Paracanoe specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
- 4.3.1. a thorough understanding of these National Classification Rules;
  - 4.3.2. an understanding of the sport(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport(s);
  - 4.3.3. an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
  - 4.3.4. a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for British Canoeing. These include that Classifiers must either:
    - a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which ICF Paracanoe at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment;
    - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in canoe; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport specific expertise, which ICF Paracanoe at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

- 4.4. ICF Paracanoe establishes a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
  - 4.4.1. a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
  - 4.4.2. quality assessment for the period of certification;
  - 4.4.3. a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
  - 4.4.4. a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5. ICF Paracanoe specifies Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. ICF Paracanoe provides Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6. ICF Paracanoe provides Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7. ICF Paracanoe may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
  - 4.7.1. a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
  - 4.7.2. a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
  - 4.7.3. a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
  - 4.7.4. the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
  - 4.7.5. that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
  - 4.7.6. that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if ICF Paracanoe is not satisfied the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
  - 4.7.7. that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if ICF Paracanoe is satisfied the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

## **5. Classifier Code of Conduct**

- 5.1. The integrity of Classification in Paracanoe depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. ICF Paracanoe and British Canoeing have therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2. All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3. Any person who believes any Classification Personnel undertaking Classification nationally in the UK may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must

report this in a written form to the British Canoeing Head of Classification or Classification Committee.

- 5.4. When the Head of Classification or Classification Committee receives such a report, the Classification Committee will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5. The Classification Committee have discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.
- 5.6. If a Classification Committee member is the subject of any such report they shall not participate in any discussions or decisions on the matter by the Classification Committee.
- 5.7. A classifier should report any potential conflict of interest to the Classification Committee, Head of Classification or Chief Classifier.

## **PART THREE: ATHLETE EVALUATION**

### **6. General Provisions**

- 6.1. British Canoeing has specified in these National Classification Rules, the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2. Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these National Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
  - 6.2.1. an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
  - 6.2.2. an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
  - 6.2.3. the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to paracanoe.

### **7. Eligible Impairment**

- 7.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in Paracanoe must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2. The ICF Classification Regulations and Rules for Paracanoe specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in Paracanoe.
- 7.3. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in the ICF Classification Regulations and Rules for Paracanoe is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment.

## Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4. The Head of Classification must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.4.1. In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition.
  - 7.4.2. The means by which British Canoeing determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of the Head of Classification. The Head of Classification may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore will not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.3. If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, the Head of Classification may designate the Athlete as "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these National Classification Rules. In such instances, the Head of Classification will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant Athlete.
- 7.5. An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply the Head of Classification with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
- 7.5.1. The Athlete must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to the Head of Classification, not later than 30 days before the start of the classification period of the Competition.
  - 7.5.2. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed and dated and signed by a certified health care professional. The health care professional must include their contact information (email address).
  - 7.5.3. The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by the Head of Classification.
- 7.6. The Head of Classification may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the Head of Classification at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7. If the Head of Classification requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, the Head of Classification may consider the Diagnostic Information and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8. The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.8.1. The Head of Classification will notify the relevant Athlete that Medical Diagnostic Information must be provided. The Head of Classification will explain what Medical Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.



- 7.8.2. The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Medical Diagnostic Information.
  - 7.8.3. The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings.
  - 7.8.4. If the Head of Classification believes he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Medical Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
  - 7.8.5. Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Medical Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Medical Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.8.6. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
  - 7.8.7. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the Athlete. The Athlete will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Medical Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review up to 15 days before the beginning of the Classification period. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the Athlete.
  - 7.8.8. If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the Athlete.
  - 7.8.9. The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.9. The Head of Classification may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

## **8. Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 8.1. An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2. ICF Paracanoe has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

- 8.3. The ICF Classification Regulations and Rules for Paracanoe specifies the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to ICF Paracanoe and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4. These National classification rules will employ the same Minimum Impairment Criteria detailed in Article 8.3 above.
- 8.5. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.6. A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the Head of Classification that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.7. In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, ICF Paracanoe has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
  - 8.7.1. for Eligible Impairments, Minimum Impairment Criteria must not consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

## **9. Sport Class**

- 9.1. A Sport Class is a category defined by ICF Paracanoe in the ICF Paracanoe Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
  - 9.1.1. An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for ICF Paracanoe must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules.
  - 9.1.2. An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for ICF Paracanoe must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
  - 9.1.3. Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) (in accordance with Article 18.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2. The ICF Classification Regulations and Rules for Paracanoe specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

## **10. Classification Not Completed**

- 10.1. If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation the Head of Classification or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC). Examples of factors include athlete compliance, pain or Observation Assessment in Competition.
- 10.2. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these National Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the British Canoeing Classification Master List.
- 10.3. An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in British Canoeing Paracanoe Competitions (unless CNC subject to Observation Assessment in Competition only).

## **PART FOUR: ATHLETE EVALUATION & THE CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

### **11. The Classification Panel**

- 11.1. A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by the Head of Classification to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

#### **General Provisions**

- 11.2. A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least two certified Classifiers, one medical classifier and one technical classifier. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification.
- 11.3. A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

### **12. Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 12.1. A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
- 12.1.1. assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
  - 12.1.2. assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
  - 12.1.3. conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.2. Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.3. Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by the Head of Classification and/or an Eligibility Assessment Committee, unless the Head of Classification requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.4. The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 12.5. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of Paracanoe, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 12.6. An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.

- 12.7. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

### **13. Evaluation Sessions**

- 13.1. This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2. The Athlete's is responsible for ensuring they comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3. In respect of Athletes:
- 13.3.1. Athletes have the right to be accompanied by one person when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.
  - 13.3.2. The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
  - 13.3.3. The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by British Canoeing.
  - 13.3.4. The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a valid passport, photo driving licence or ID card.
  - 13.3.5. The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class. (Where possible the athlete is requested not to wear black clothing to aid the Classification Panel in the identification of movements).
  - 13.3.6. The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
  - 13.3.7. The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Panel.
- 13.4. In respect of the Classification Panel:
- 13.4.1. The Classification Panel may request an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.2. The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.3. In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.2, a Classification Panel may only refer to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, their club or and British Canoeing (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.4. The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

## 14. National Sport Class Status

- 14.1. If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a National Sport Class Status. National Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 14.2. The National Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
  - 14.2.1. National Confirmed (NC)
  - 14.2.2. Review with a National Review with Fixed Date (NRFD)
  - 14.2.3. National Review (NR) will be used when an athlete is under Medical Review, or classifiers require to see him/her before every competition, or where the athlete has been seen for Observation Assessment in Competition but the classification panel are not able to come to a final decision and wish to see the athlete in further competition.
- 14.3. An Athlete is allocated National Sport Class Status New (NN) prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with National Sport Class Status New (NN) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any British Canoeing Paracanoe Competition, unless the Head of Classification specifies otherwise.

### National Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 14.4. An Athlete will be designated with National Sport Class Status Confirmed (NC) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable.
- 14.5. An Athlete with National Sport Class Status Confirmed (NC) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 18), Medical Review (Article 26), changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 14.8) or should they wish to be classified by ICF Paracanoe).
- 14.6. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with National Sport Class Status Confirmed (NC) but must designate the Athlete with National Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date (NFDR).

### National Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date (NRFD)

- 14.7. An Athlete will be designated National Sport Class Status Review with a National Review with Fixed Date (NRFD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
  - 14.7.1. A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by British Canoeing; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; has a newly acquired impairment which may be subject to return of function; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.

- 14.7.2. An Athlete with National Sport Class Status Review with a National Review with Fixed Date (NRFDD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
- 14.7.3. An Athlete who has been allocated National Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (NRFDD) does not have to attend an Evaluation Session prior to the Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request.

### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 14.8. If ICF Paracanoe changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
  - 14.8.1. The Head of Classification may re-assign any Athlete with National Sport Class Review with a National Review with Fixed Date (NRFDD) (even those with who hold National Sport Class Status Confirmed (NC)) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
  - 14.8.2. The Head of Classification may remove the National Review with Fixed Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
  - 14.8.3. In both instances the Athlete shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

### **15. Multiple Sport Classes**

- 15.1. This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated in more than one Sport Class. Multiple Eligible Impairments
- 15.2. An Athlete who has a Physical Impairment may be allocated more than one Sport Class (in Kayak and Va'a) relevant to that Physical Impairment subject to any applicable ICF Paracanoe Rules and Regulations.

### **16. Notification**

- 16.1. The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 16.2. The Chief Classifier must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition or Evaluation event following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the National Classification Master List on the British Canoeing website.

## **PART FIVE: SPORT CLASS NOT ELIGIBLE (NE)**

### **17. Sport Class Not Eligible**

#### **General Provisions**

- 17.1. If the Head of Classification determines that an Athlete:
- a) has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - b) does not have an Underlying Health Condition,
- 17.2. The Head of Classification must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 17.3. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

#### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 17.4. If the Head of Classification determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 17.4.1. will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - 17.4.2. will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status National Confirmed (NC) by Head of Classification.
- 17.5. If another International Sport Federation or National Governing Body has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 17.6. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the Head of Classification or a Classification Panel (if delegated by the Head of Classification) because that Athlete has:
- a) an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - b) a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;
- 17.7. the athlete has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in Paracanoe.

#### **Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 17.8. 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 the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.



- 17.8.1. 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 such re-assessment.
- 17.8.2. If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (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 National Confirmed (NC).
- 17.9. 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 which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 17.10. 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 Paracanoe, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 17.11. 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 the sport of Paracanoe.

## **PART SIX: PROTESTS**

### **18. Scope of an Protest**

- 18.1. A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 18.2. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) but they can request a second review of their medical information.

### **19. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest**

A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

- 19.1. a competing Paracanoe Athlete with a National or International Classification Status (other than Not Eligible) (see Articles 21-22); or
- 19.2. Head of Classification (see Articles 23-24).
- 19.3. An Athlete may only make a Protest in respect of a himself/herself at a venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 19.4. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 17 of these National Classification Rules) an Athlete Self Protest must be submitted within two (2) hours of the outcome being published if the outcome is published during working hours (09:00 to 17:00). If the outcome is published outside of working hours or after 17:00, an Athlete Self Protest must be submitted by 10:00 of the following day. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition an Athlete Self Protest

must be submitted as noted above; within two (2) hours of the outcome being published if the outcome is published during working hours (09:00 to 17:00). If the outcome is published outside of working hours or after 17:00, an Athlete Self Protest must be submitted by 10:00 of the following day.

- 19.5. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

## **20. Head of Classification Protests**

- 20.1. The Head of Classification may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 20.1.1. it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect National Sport Class; or
  - 20.1.2. an Athlete makes a documented request to the Head of Classification. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of the Head of Classification.

## **21. Head of Classification Appeal Procedure**

- 21.1. If the Head of Classification decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant Athlete of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 21.2. The Head of Classification must provide the relevant Athlete with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 21.3. If the Head of Classification makes a Protest:
- 21.3.1. the Protested Athlete's National Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
  - 21.3.2. the Protested Athlete's National Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
  - 21.3.3. a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## **22. Competition Status of Protested Athlete**

- 22.1. the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the National Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with National Sport Class Status Review with National Fixed Review Date (NFRD), pending the resolution of the Protest.

## **23. Protest Panel**

- 23.1. The Head of Classification will appoint a Protest Panel to undertake an Evaluation.

- 23.2. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.
- 23.2.1. This second Classification Panel must not include any person who was a member of the original Classification Panel that made the Appealed Decision;
- 23.3. The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 23.4. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these National Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 23.5. The Protest Panel must allocate a National Sport Class and designate a National Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these National Classification Rules.

## **PART SEVEN: MISCONDUCT DURING EVALUATION SESSION**

### **24. Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

- 24.1. An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 24.2. If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 24.3. If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no National Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

### **25. Suspension of Evaluation Session**

- 25.1. A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a National Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 25.1.1. a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
- 25.1.2. a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
- 25.1.3. 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 its determination in a fair manner;

- 25.1.4. 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 the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 25.1.5. the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 25.1.6. the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
  - 25.1.7. the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with **any information** available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 25.2. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 25.2.1. an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete;
  - 25.2.2. if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed;
  - 25.2.3. if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 25.3. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as National Classification Not Completed (NCNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.
- 25.4. A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **PART EIGHT: MEDICAL REVIEW**

### **26. Medical Review**

- 26.1. This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a National Sport Class with National Sport Class Status Confirmed (NC) or National Review with Fixed Review Date (NFRD).
- 26.2. A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 26.3. A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete (together with a £50 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). 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 Paracanoe has changed.

- 26.4. A Medical Review Request must be received by the Head of Classification as soon as reasonably practicable and in no cases will be received less than 30 days before the competition that athlete intends to compete in.
- 26.5. The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 26.6. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 30.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of the Head of Classification may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 26.7. If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's National Sport Class Status will be changed to National Review (NR) with immediate effect.

## **PART NINE: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

### **27. Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 27.1. It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a National Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 27.2. It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 27.3. Anyone with relevant information of genuine concerns of Intentional Misrepresentation should report those concerns either to British Canoeing, or where there are reasons those concerns cannot be shared with British Canoeing, information should be sent to the British Paralympic Association.
- 27.4. In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by the Head of Classification to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
  - 27.4.1. The panel for the hearing shall be composed of the Head of Classification, Chief Classifier (where appointed to a Competition) of the relevant competition (if different than the Head of Classification) and the British Canoeing Head of Governance and Compliance. Where a Chief Classifier is not appointed to a Competition, a representative from the Classification Committee will be appointed.
- 27.5. The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:

- 27.5.1. disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
  - 27.5.2. being allocated with National Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a National Review with Fixed Review Date (NFRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
  - 27.5.3. suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
  - 27.5.4. publication of their names and suspension period.
- 27.6. Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated National Sport Class Not Eligible with National Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.
- 27.7. Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.
- 27.8. If another National Governing Body or International Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by British Canoeing.
- 27.9. Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the British Canoeing Governance Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the ICF Disability Committee.
- 27.10. Any disciplinary action taken by the British Canoeing pursuant to these National Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable British Canoeing disciplinary proceedings as detailed in British Canoeing Policy and procedures.

## **PART TEN: USE OF ATHLETE INFORMATION**

### **28. Classification Data**

- 28.1. British Canoeing may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 28.2. All Classification Data Processed by British Canoeing must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

## **29. Consent and Processing**

- 29.1. Subject to Article 31.1, British Canoeing may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 29.2. If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 29.3. British Canoeing may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

## **30. Classification Research**

- 30.1. British Canoeing may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 30.2. The use by British Canoeing of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these National Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 30.3. Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to British Canoeing solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 30.4. British Canoeing may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If British Canoeing wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

## **31. Notification to Athletes**

- 31.1. British Canoeing must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - 31.1.1. the fact that British Canoeing is collecting the Classification Data; and
  - 31.1.2. the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - 31.1.3. the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

## **32. Classification Data Security**

- 32.1. British Canoeing must:
  - 32.1.1. protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and

- 32.1.2. take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these National Classification Rules.

### **33. Disclosures of Classification Data**

- 33.1. British Canoeing must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.
- 33.2. British Canoeing may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these National Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

### **34. Retaining Classification Data**

- 34.1. British Canoeing must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected.
- 34.2. Data will be kept in line with the British Canoeing Data Retention Policy.
- 34.3. British Canoeing must implement policies and procedures to ensure Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

### **35. Access Rights to Classification Data**

- 35.1. Athletes may request from the Head of Classification:
  - 35.1.1. Confirmation of whether or not that British Canoeing Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 35.1.2. A copy of the Classification Data held by British Canoeing; and/or
  - 35.1.3. Correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by British Canoeing.
- 35.2. A request may be made by an Athlete must be complied with, within a reasonable period of time.

### **36. Classification Master Lists**

- 36.1. British Canoeing must maintain a National Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, National Sport Class and National Sport Class Status. The National Classification Master List must identify whether an Athletes' Classification is a National Classification Status or International Classification Status.
- 36.2. British Canoeing must make available the National Classification Master List to all relevant Athletes on the British Canoeing website.



## **PART ELEVEN: APPEALS**

### **37. Appeal**

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

### **38. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal**

- 38.1. An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:

38.1.1. A Nationally Classified Athlete

### **39. Appeals**

- 39.1. If an Athlete considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a National Sport Class and/or National Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect National Sport Class or National Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.
- 39.2. The National Classification Committee will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.
- 39.3. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable British Canoeing appeals procedures.