



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
**CP FOOTBALL**

*pure football*



**IFCPF**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
**CP FOOTBALL**

# Classification Rules and Regulations

**2024**



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## **PREAMBLE**

The current rules have been developed concerning the [IPC Athletes Classification Code](#) and five International Standards ([Eligible Impairments](#), [Athlete Evaluation](#), [Protests and Appeals](#), [Classifier Personnel and Training](#) and [Classification Data Protection](#)). These documents have been approved by IPC Governing Board on 5 September 2016, and are effective as of 1 January 2017 with compliance required by 1 January 2018.

Currents rules include inputs from Classifiers, the IFCPF Governing Board, Coaches and Players, thanks to some research activities conducted in the last three years. The year 2017 has been a 'transition' period for application of the current rules, and opportunities for feedback by IFCPF Members, Classifiers and the Governing Board are advisable for adapting to the new classification system.

The new classification system was presented at the 2016 IFCPF General Assembly (12 November) to members. The application of the new classification profiles will be effective 8 January 2018, with competitions in 2017 regulated by the 2015 Classification Rules. Teams involved in 2017 competitions sanctioned by IFCPF have been invited to information sessions, and players involved in classification will receive a 'double class': one with the valid system in 2017 (classes FT5, FT6, FT7 and FT8) and one for the new system effective in 2018 (classes 1, 2, 3 / A, B, C).

A provisional new version of the Classification Manual Rulebook is created for 2023, to include aspects related to the incorporation of female competition, transfer of research actions to practical implementation in classification, feedback from classifiers/members and update of the procedures in classification. These amendments will also consider the current process of revision of the IPC's Athletes Classification Code, which new version will be implemented in January 2025.

NOTE: According to Article 10.2 of the [IPC Classification Code](#), International Sport Federations must develop sport-specific Classification Systems through multidisciplinary scientific research. Such research must be evidence-based and focus on the relationship between impairment and key performance determinants. Athlete input must be solicited to assist in research and improvement in Classification Systems. Thus IFCPF will invite players, through their NPC or National Body (IFCPF Members), to participate in research actions conducted, based on voluntary participation and complying with recognised ethical standards and research practices.



## **Part One: General Provisions**

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

#### **Section 1.1. Adoption**

- 1.1. These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by IFCPF to implement the requirements of the [2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards](#).
- 1.2. The Classification Rules have been adopted by IFCPF on 8 January 2018.
- 1.3. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4. These Classification Rules form part of the IFCPF Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from CP-Football and can be amended by IFCPF from time to time.
- 1.6. These Classification Rules (referred to generally as 'Classification Rules') provide a framework within which the process of 'Classification' may take place.

#### **Section 1.2. Classification**

- 1.7. Athlete Classification is a defining feature of any Para-sport.
- 1.8. Classification provides a structure for competition and takes place on a Club, State, National, Regional and International level, having two important roles:
  - a) Defining who is eligible to compete in Para-sport and, consequently, who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Para-Athlete; and
  - b) Grouping 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.
- 1.9. The IFCPF classification system has been designed to minimise the impact of the eligible impairments on the outcome of Competition, so that Athletes who succeed in Competition do so on the basis of their sporting ability. It is intended to provide a framework for fair Competition and to ensure that competitive success is determined by the training, skill level, strategies and talent of Athletes and teams.
- 1.10. In order to achieve this purpose, Athletes are classified according to the extent of Activity Limitation on the football skills (e.g. running, change of direction ability, kicking, passing or jumping, among others) resulting from their impairment.
- 1.11. Every athlete wishing to compete in a CP-Football competition must be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class status in accordance with the IFCPF Classification Rules.



It will be allocated based on the existence of an eligible impairment and compliance with minimal impairment criteria and the degree to which the impairment impacts upon sport performance (activity limitation). All athletes will be assessed individually to determine the effect of their impairment functionality (activity limitation) and on their sporting ability. In consequence, according to the [IPC Athlete Classification Code](#), these Rules will include:

- a) List of Eligible Impairments for CP-Football, according to that presented in the [IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments](#).
- b) Processes and procedures for assessing whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- c) Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment, complying with the [IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairment](#) and for [Athlete Evaluation](#).
- d) Sport Classes based on the extent to which Athletes are able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to CP-Football. The process by which Sport Classes are allocated complies with the [IPC's International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#).

### **Section 1.3. Application**

- 1.12. These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with IFCPF, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorized, recognised or sanctioned by IFCPF.
- 1.13. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of CP-Football, including but not limited to the sport technical rules of IFCPF. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

### **Section 1.4. International Classification**

- 1.14. IFCPF will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International 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 these Classification Rules.
- 1.15. IFCPF will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised or Sanctioned Competitions (or other such locations as defined by IFCPF). IFCPF will advise Athletes and IFCPF Members in advance as to such Recognised or Sanctioned Competitions (or other such locations).



## **Section 1.5. Interpretation and Relationship to Code**

- 1.16. References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.17. References to a 'sport' in these Classification Rules refer to CP-Football.
- 1.18. The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules and may both be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by the IFCPF from time to time.
- 1.19. Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.20. These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text, but in a manner that is consistent with the [2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code](#) and the accompanying [International Standards](#).

## **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 Classification Rules.
- 2.2. [IPC Athlete Classification Code](#) -The Code- (Article 12) establishes a series of roles and responsibilities for International Sport Federations (IFCPF), National Paralympic Committees, Athletes and Athletes' Support Personnel.

### **Section 2.1. IFCPF Responsibilities**

- 2.3. The roles and responsibilities of IFCPF include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.3.1. Developing, implementing and regularly reviewing and publishing IFCPF Classification Rules, including eligibility criteria, in Compliance with the Code.
  - 2.3.2. Developing and implementing a policy for its members to comply with the Code, and establishing procedures to address non-Compliance with the Code and/or the provisions implemented in the IFCPF Classification Rules.
  - 2.3.3. Initiating Classification Education and Research.
  - 2.3.4. Recommending as a condition of membership that IFCPF Classification Rules in National Bodies should be accomplished.
  - 2.3.5. Developing, implementing and maintaining a clear Classifier recruitment, training and development pathway.
  - 2.3.6. Communicating any amendment or update of the Rules to National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees prior to its application.



## **Section 2.2. IFCPF Members' Responsibilities**

- 2.4. The roles and responsibilities of National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees which are IFCPF Members include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.4.1. Ensuring that national Classification Rules conform to IFCPF Classification Rules and making recommendations for compliance.
  - 2.4.2. Developing and implementing a policy for their members to comply with the Rules and establishing procedures to address non-Compliance with the Rules and/or the Code.
  - 2.4.3. Promoting the development of a national Classification strategy for CP-Football, asking IFCPF about cooperation in this regard.

## **Section 2.3. Athletes' Responsibilities**

- 2.5. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include:
  - 2.5.1. Being knowledgeable of and complying with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.5.2. Participating in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - 2.5.3. Ensuring, when appropriate, that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to CP-Football;
  - 2.5.4. Cooperating with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
  - 2.5.5. Actively participating in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise. Request for participation in research (written and in English) must be made by IFCPF (Head of Classification or Research Coordinator) with a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to implementation.

## **Section 2.4. Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.6. The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:
  - 2.6.1. Being knowledgeable of and complying with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.6.2. Using their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.6.3. Assisting in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
  - 2.6.4. Cooperating with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.



## **Section 2.5. Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.7. The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include:
- 2.7.1. Having a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.7.2. Using their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.7.3. Assisting in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
  - 2.7.4. Cooperating with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.



## Part Two: Classification Personnel

### 3. Classification Personnel and Their Competencies

- 3.1. Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. IFCPF will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for CP-Football.
- 3.2. IFCPF recognises Classifiers in a particular competition as Games Officials.

#### Section 3.1. Head of Classification

- 3.3. IFCPF must appoint a Head of Classification (HoC). The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of Classification matters for CP-Football.
- 3.4. If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, IFCPF 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.
- 3.5. The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier. If not a certified Classifier, the HoC must work closely together with experienced Classifiers in CP-Football.
- 3.6. The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers or to other persons authorised by IFCPF.
- 3.7. Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.
- 3.8. HoC duties may include, but are not limited to:
  - 3.8.1. Responsibility for appointing Classification Panel(s) that will conduct International Classification at Sanctioned Competitions;
  - 3.8.2. Membership on the IFCPF Technical Committee;
  - 3.8.3. Examination of the status of Classification in CP-Football on a regular basis, leading research actions for the development of an evidence-based classification system;
  - 3.8.4. Leadership of the design, planning and recommendation of programs and policies for IFCPF to ensure that Classification Rules comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards;
  - 3.8.5. Organisation and conducting of Classifier training and certification;
  - 3.8.6. Maintenance and regular updating of the Classification Master List to ensure that classification records are accurate, or appointment of an individual to maintain and update them;



- 3.8.7. Maintenance and regular updating of a Classifiers Database to track classifier activity and certification;
- 3.8.8. Informing of Classifiers of any changes in the Classification rules and consultation for feedback on issues which affect the specific sport and classification rules;
- 3.8.9. Liaising with all relevant external parties, such as the IPC Classification Committee and IPC Medical and Scientific Department, and Organising Committees;
- 3.8.10. Chairing the IFCPF Classification Committee, suggesting and defending classification matters in the face of IFCPF Governing Board;
- 3.8.11. Authorising a Chief Classifier for the appointment of a Protest Panel according to Article 25 of these Rules;
- 3.8.12. Proposal of the Classification Committee (Section 6.1) and the Eligibility Assessment Committee members (Section 8.1: Rule 8.8.3); and
- 3.8.13. Providing of content to the IFCPF Communication Manager (i.e. IFCPF Newsletter) to inform National Bodies about any relevant issue in CP-Football classification.

## **Section 3.2. Classifiers**

- 3.9. A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the IFCPF to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 3.10. A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by IFCPF as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 3.11. The duties of the Classifier may include, but are not limited to:
  - 3.11.1. Working as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status at IFCPF sanctioned events;
  - 3.11.2. Working as a member of a Protest Panel, as required;
  - 3.11.3. Attending classification meetings at Competitions; and
  - 3.11.4. Assisting in Classifier Training and Certification (for example, being involved in organising and teaching at classification seminars) as requested by the HoC or the Tutor Classifier appointed to be in charge of training at the Competition.
- 3.12. IFCPF will certify Classifiers once the curriculum has been completed to an agreed level, as highlighted in Section 4.2.
- 3.13. IFCPF Classifiers are required, as appropriate, to assist in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Rules and Sport Class profiles for CP-Football; to participate in Classifier workshops arranged by IFCPF and/or collaborating organisations from time to time; and to attend such Classifier training as requested from time to time by IFCPF.



### 3.14. There are two types of IFCPF Classifiers:

#### 3.14.1. **Medical Classifier**

3.14.1.1. *Medical Doctor.* A doctor who has experience in dealing with people with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and physical impairments as defined in the Eligible Impairments (Appendix One). They must be professionals with a neurological background (e.g. paediatricians, neurologists, rehabilitators).

3.14.1.2. *Physiotherapists* or related disciplines trained to work with individuals with the clinical manifestations of cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke and other physical impairments as defined in the Eligible Impairments (Appendix One). They are preferably professionals with a neurological background and/or neuro caseload.

3.14.1.3. It is recommended that Medical Classifiers have a background in football (actively involved).

#### 3.14.2. **Sport Technical Classifier**

3.14.2.1. Individuals with an extensive football background, wide CP-Football coaching experience<sup>1</sup> or those with degrees in official football training, physical education, sport sciences, biomechanics, kinesiology or reputable academic qualification with a working knowledge of CP-Football.

3.14.2.2. It is preferable that Sport Technical Classifiers have a background or knowledge in activity limitation provoked by neurological/physical impairments.

3.15. Only Classifiers who fulfil the requirements of Article 3.14.1 are entitled to conduct Physical Assessments (see Section 14.4: Article 14.26).

3.16. A Classifier with an active role in a country or national body/team that is a member of IFCPF cannot also act as a Classifier in an IFCPF-sanctioned competition.

## **Section 3.3. Chief Classifiers**

3.17. The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by IFCPF.

3.18. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by IFCPF to do the following:

3.18.1. Identify those Athletes who will be competing at that Competition who will require Athlete Evaluation for Sport Class and Sport Class Status;

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<sup>1</sup> All new IFCPF Classifiers will be required to have previous experience and/or a specific level of classification.



- 3.18.2. Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers to ensure that the Rules are properly applied, monitoring their level of classification competencies and proficiencies;
  - 3.18.3. Manage Protest in consultation with IFCPF;
  - 3.18.4. Act as the 3rd Classifier on a Protest Panel at a Worldwide Competition where two (2) Panels of two (2) Classifiers form the classification panels;
  - 3.18.5. Liaise with the relevant Competition organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged so the Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition;
  - 3.18.6. Be the authorised person to manage the IFCPF Master List in a particular competition; and
  - 3.18.7. Inform the HoC about all relevant issues in a particular competition, completing a report within 30 days of the competition.
- 3.19. A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified IFCPF officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons on the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of a Competition.
- 3.20. A Chief Classifier may attend and train or be mentored by the Head of Classification or another Senior (Level 3) Classifier who has been appointed as Chief Classifier at an earlier event.

### **Section 3.4. Trainee Classifiers**

- 3.21. A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training to become an IFCPF Classifier but who is not yet certified as an International Classifier.
- 3.22. IFCPF may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop the necessary Classifier Competencies in order to achieve certification.
- 3.23. The duties of a Trainee Classifier may include:
- 3.23.1. Active participation and observation to learn Classification Rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for Certification;
  - 3.23.2. Attendance at Classification meetings or events; and
  - 3.23.3. Adherence to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.
- 3.24. A Trainee Classifier cannot allocate an international Sport Class.



## **Section 3.5. Classifier Competencies**

- 3.25. Classification Personnel Competencies include, but are not limited to:
- 3.25.1. A thorough understanding of the Classification Rules;
  - 3.25.2. An understanding of CP-Football, including an understanding of the technical rules;
  - 3.25.3. An understanding of the Code and the International Standards;
  - 3.25.4. The professional qualifications, level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for CP-Football; and
  - 3.25.5. Other required competencies and/or duties:
    - 3.25.5.1. active involvement in Classification Panel discussions or debates, with pertinent contributions;
    - 3.25.5.2. participation;
    - 3.25.5.3. ability to work on a team, respecting the opinions of other Classifiers;
    - 3.25.5.4. compliance with the Code of Conduct;
    - 3.25.5.5. good skills for paperwork (i.e. accurate completion of classification forms, document management and/or storage); and
    - 3.25.5.6. reporting his/her national Classification activity to IFCPF when required.
- 3.26. See Sections 3.1 to 3.4 regarding specific competencies across the different roles of the Classification Personnel.



## 4. Classifiers Training and Certification

4.1. IFCPF must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure that Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.

### Section 4.1. Classifiers Pathway

4.2. Table 1 describes IFCPF Classification Personnel Pathway:

**Table 1.** IFCPF Classification Personnel Pathway, remarks and link to the types of recognized Classification Personnel

1	Complete IFCPF An Introduction to CP Football Classification Course and the Accredited Basic Classification (Online) Course.	Online.	National Classifier
2	Conduct Classification at Local, State and National level for a minimum of two years.	Records of a number of competitions and/or players will be necessary.	
3	IFCPF Member submits application to IFCPF HoC for classifier to become International Classifier.	Attach a Logbook of local, state and national classifications to be submitted with the application, including a motivation letter.	
4	Approved applicants to complete Practical Training and/or Accredited Refresher Course for Classification at first International Event.	Face-to-face training at an international competition.	Trainee Classifier
5	Trainee Classifier to complete second International Event and receive sign-off from the Head of Classification.	This second training will be necessary at discretion of HoC (i.e. number of classifications done in Step 4 and/or demonstrated proficiency).	
6	Level 1 International Classifier.	Can be appointed as International Classifier in a Competition.	International Classifier
7	Level 2 International Classifier.		
8	Level 3 International Classifier.		
9	Head of Classification.		HoC



## **Section 4.2. Classification Levels and Roles**

Specific roles and/or duties across different Classification Personnel Levels include, but are not limited to:

### **4.3. Trainee Classifier:**

- 4.3.1. Training Classifier has completed the IFCPF An Introduction to CP Football Classification Course and the Accredited Basic Classifier's Course and has been classifying for at least two (2) years in his or her country and attending National CP-Football Competitions in the process of training as a National CP-Football Classifier (if it is applicable).
- 4.3.2. The IFCPF Head of Classification may appoint Trainee Classifiers after receiving an application from an IFCPF Member with an up-to-date logbook of all the classifications done on a National level.
- 4.3.3. An Approved Applicant will be invited as a Trainee Classifier to attend an International IFCPF Competition. At the first International Event, the Trainee Classifier will complete a Refresher (update) Course for Classification and may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel in order to develop the necessary competencies.
- 4.3.4. After completing the second practicum (if it is applicable) and all the requirements as a Trainee Classifier are achieved, he or she will be certified by IFCPF as an International Classifier.
- 4.3.5. A Trainee Classifier must be certified as having completed the previous education and/or experience according to the professional qualifications described in 3.14.2 (medical classifiers) and/or 3.14.2 (technical classifiers).

### **4.4. Level 1 International Classifier:**

- 4.4.1. A Classifier who has completed the requirements as an IFCPF Trainee Classifier, being responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rulebook and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.
- 4.4.2. May be invited to participate as part of a Classification Panel of three (3) Classifiers at an IFCPF sanctioned competition. Thus, this individual may participate in the assignment of Sport Class with a minimum of supervision of two Level 2 Classifiers.
- 4.4.3. May be appointed for Development or Regional Competitions.
- 4.4.4. Can act as a member of a Protest Panel of 3 Classifiers which involves classifiers from Levels 2 or 3.

### **4.5. Level 2 International Classifier:**

- 4.5.1. A qualified Level 1 classifier who has been classifying at an International level for at least three (3) years and in no fewer than three (3) Competitions.



- 4.5.2. May be invited to participate as part of a Classification Panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers at an IFCPF-sanctioned Competition.
- 4.5.3. May be appointed for Regional, Continental or Worldwide Competitions.
- 4.5.4. Can act as a member of a Protest Panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers.
- 4.5.5. Can assist in Classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification or the Classifier appointed to be in charge of training at the Competition.

#### **4.6. Level 3 International Classifier:**

- 4.6.1. A Level 3 Classifier is a Senior Classifier who shows leadership, participates in research and development of the Classification system, and has sufficient experience to interpret the IFCPF Classification Rules whilst at a Competition. Prerequisites include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.6.1.1. A minimum of three (3) years' experience classifying internationally, having substantial experience/time at all levels;
  - 4.6.1.2. Ability to understand and teach borderline cases;
  - 4.6.1.3. Demonstration of consistent skills in Classification (i.e. assessment, observation, paperwork, conduct and communication); and
  - 4.6.1.4. Attendance at a tutorial course on classification and evaluation to teach and train classifiers in training.
- 4.6.2. A Level 3 Classifier may be invited to participate as part of a Classification Panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers at any type of IFCPF Competitions.
- 4.6.3. Their specific duties include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.6.3.1. Supervising and evaluating Classifiers in training and other Classifiers (i.e. re-certification);
  - 4.6.3.2. Conducting or assisting in introductory and accreditation-level practical courses;
  - 4.6.3.3. Assisting in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Rules and profiles for CP-Football;
  - 4.6.3.4. Assisting in the review of the rules/profiles on a regular basis (i.e. in each quarter); and
  - 4.6.3.5. Providing workshops to update Classifiers at the National, Regional or International Level.
- 4.6.4. He/she may be allocated as Chief Classifier in a particular competition.
- 4.6.5. Can be suggested by Head of Classification as a member of the IFCPF Classification Committee, requiring the approval of the IFCPF Governing Board.



## **Section 4.3. Classifiers Training and Accreditation**

- 4.7. The IFCPF Classification training and accreditation program consists of two levels:
  - 4.7.1. **Stage 1:** *Introduction to CP Football Classification Course and the Accredited Basic Classifier's Course* (online), allowing classification at local and national levels.
  - 4.7.2. **Stage 2:** *International Classification Accreditation Course* (including the practical components), allowing pathway from Trainee Classifier to Level 1 International Classifier.
- 4.8. The theory component at both levels is accompanied by a practical component, using different teaching methodologies (see Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2).
- 4.9. It can take up to three (3) years to finish the program, though some people might complete it much more quickly.
- 4.10. IFCPF can make Classifier training and education resources available to specific National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees for the purpose of national Classifier training or development (i.e. to improve the practical skills of national classifiers). This resource is called **Classification Workshops**, and such workshops are separate from and do not substitute for the practical components of the International Classification Accreditation Education Course (Stage 2).
- 4.11. At the discretion of IFCPF, and with the approval of the HoC, a Classifier can be invited for Stage 2 training (i.e. exceptional skills reported, widely experienced in other Para-sports), but only for exceptional circumstances (i.e. providing Classifiers to countries with no national activity who can lead Classification development in a particular region).

### **Section 4.3.1 – Stage 1: Introduction to CP-Football Classification Course and the Accredited Basic Classifier's Course**

- 4.12. This Basic or Introductory Course is open to all who work with people with disabilities and/or wish to gain knowledge of CP-Football and its Classification System.
- 4.13. The Course is accessible to physicians, physiotherapists and technical sport specialists as described in Articles 3.14.1.1, 3.14.1.1 and 3.14.2 respectively.
- 4.14. Course structure and delivery of Stage 1:
  - 4.14.1. The course is self-paced and supervised by online instructors who can answer questions and assist where needed. The theory component is offered online through IFCPF in partnership with Miguel Hernández University (Elche, Spain). It includes readings, quizzes and assignments.
  - 4.14.2. The practical component is completed through videotape assignments with feedback from the education tutors, requiring the student to maintain a log book of athletes classified and videos of him/her classifying athletes.



- 4.14.3. Candidates will have up to six (6) months to complete the online portion; the practical component, which can take up to one year, provides the completion of prerequisites for Stage 2.
- 4.14.4. The completion of the Introductory Course is a prerequisite for applying for IFCPF Classifier training along with the other requirements such as logbook and a minimum of two (2) years classifying on a National level.
- 4.15. Notification of Certification of Stage 1:
  - 4.15.1. The participants successfully completing the course will receive a certificate of completion from IFCPF.
  - 4.15.2. The participants who classify at the National level are to be nominated by their National Federation, and the application has to be submitted to the IFCPF Head of Classification to access Stage 2 or International Classifier Training.
  - 4.15.3. The participant's National Federation may request a copy of the certificate.
- 4.16. The participant must classify at the national level to be nominated for Level 2: International Classification Accreditation.

### **Section 4.3.2 – Stage 2: International Classification Accreditation Course**

- 4.17. Students must have completed both the online and practical components of Stage 1 or Introduction to CP-Football Classification course AND be nominated to the IFCPF HoC by their country.
- 4.18. A resume of relevant education and certification must accompany the Country's nomination.
- 4.19. The candidates must fit one of the profiles described in Article 3.14.1.1, 3.14.1.2 or 3.14.2.
- 4.20. Course structure and delivery of Stage 2:
  - 4.20.1. The theory component lends itself to supporting the practical component, allowing Trainee Classifiers more time for hands-on experience and interaction with Classification Panels.
  - 4.20.2. The practical component will be completed with the student attending one (1) or two (2) International Competitions to classify under the supervision of a Classification Panel and/or Classification Tutor.
  - 4.20.3. Typically the practical component will involve a one-day group session with other Classifiers addressing the technical and assessment protocols, led by Senior Classifiers. This will be followed by two (2) to four (4) days of classification with mentor Classifiers during the actual classification process and observations in Competition.
  - 4.20.4. The final exam (pass mark of 75%) is written and is held after the practical component.



- 4.20.5. Before the departure of the Trainee Classifier, he or she will have a face-to-face meeting with that person responsible for the Classification Training, to be informed of whether a second practical is needed (Step 5 in Table 1).
- 4.21. Notification of Certification of Stage 2:
- 4.21.1. Upon completion of the practical component at 1-2 Competitions and successfully attaining 75% or higher in the written exam, a Certificate will be issued and the individual will qualify as an IFCPF Level 1 International Classifier.
- 4.21.2. The National Federation that paid for the training of the new Level 1 International Classifier will receive a copy of the certification.

## **Section 4.4. Classifier Certification Maintenance**

- 4.22. Classifiers must maintain their accreditation and will be notified annually regarding the status of their accreditation and how to develop further competencies by the Head of Classification.
- 4.23. IFCPF will provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Re-certification, especially before International Competitions where theoretical and practical training can be combined.
- 4.24. Classifiers who fail to meet the maintenance criteria after four (4) years will lose their status and become INACTIVE until they have been able to upgrade their skills and be recertified.
- 4.25. The criteria to maintain an International CP-Football Certification is described as follows:
- 4.25.1. **Level 1 International Classifier:**
- 4.25.1.1. Must respond to communications on a regular basis including responding to calls for classifiers for Development or Regional Competitions indicating availability or not.
- 4.25.1.2. Must be active within their nation or region annually classifying at least one Competition or a minimum of 10 CP-Football players.
- 4.25.1.3. Submit an annual classification log to indicate activity each year, certified by the National Federation.
- 4.25.1.4. Attend classification seminars or meetings (sometimes held prior to the Competition) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current IFCPF Classification Rules.
- 4.25.1.5. Attend and classify at a minimum of two (2) Development or Regional Competitions per quadrennial.



#### 4.25.2. **Level 2 International Classifier:**

- 4.25.2.1. Must respond to communications on a regular basis including responding to calls for classifiers for Continental or Worldwide Competitions indicating availability or not.
- 4.25.2.2. Must be active within their nation or region annually classifying at least one Competition or a minimum of 10 CP-Football players.
- 4.25.2.3. Submit an annual classification log to indicate activity each year, certified by the National Federation.
- 4.25.2.4. Attend classification seminars or meetings (sometimes held prior to the Competition) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current IFCPF Classification Rules.
- 4.25.2.5. Attend and classify at a minimum of two (2) Continental or Worldwide Competitions per quadrennial.

#### 4.25.3. **Level 3 International Classifier:**

- 4.25.3.1. Is active within nation and region.
- 4.25.3.2. Classifies regularly on a national level.
- 4.25.3.3. Submits a logbook to the HoC each year.
- 4.25.3.4. Is active internationally and attends at least one CP-Football Competition every two years.
- 4.25.3.5. Attends classification workshops and seminars.
- 4.25.3.6. Participates in classifier discussions and tasks keeping abreast of committee communications and directives.
- 4.25.3.7. Involvement in Classification Education or Trainee Classifiers' tutoring.

## **5. Classifiers Code of Conduct**

- 5.1. The integrity of Classification in CP-Football depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. IFCPF has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifiers Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2. Classification Personnel must comply with a set of behavioural and ethical standards when acting as Classifiers or Trainee Classifiers:
  - 5.2.1. Act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all Athletes.



- 5.2.2. Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, regardless of team affiliation, culture or origin.
- 5.2.3. Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in accordance with the IPC's [International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#) and the [International Standard for Protest and Appeals](#), and IFCPF and/or competition rules.
- 5.2.4. Maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the [IPC's International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#), including sharing information with third parties and/or social media.
- 5.2.5. Comply with the [IPC's International Standard for Classification Data Protection](#).
- 5.2.6. Declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest, disclosing any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.
- 5.2.7. Must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition.
- 5.2.8. Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure.
- 5.2.9. Perform classification duties and related responsibilities whilst not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- 5.3. Classifiers must respect the Classification Rules and:
  - 5.3.1. Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions.
  - 5.3.2. Understand the theory and practical aspects of these Rules and make them widely known and understood by Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel.
  - 5.3.3. Continuously seek self-improvement through the study of CP-Football, Classification Rules, mentoring lesser experienced Classifiers and developing Trainee Classifiers.
- 5.4. Classifiers must respect their colleagues and
  - 5.4.1. Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information.
  - 5.4.2. Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment.
  - 5.4.3. Treat other classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognising that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticise other Classifiers, Games Officials or Technical Advisers in public, including Athletes and/or Support Personnel.



- 5.4.4. Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision-making process of fellow Classifiers, Games Officials and Technical Advisors whether you agree or not.
- 5.4.5. Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced Classifiers and assist with the training and development of Classifiers.
- 5.5. All classification personnel must sign and adhere to the [IPC Code of Ethics](#) and IFCPF Code of Conduct (if it is applicable) indicating an agreement to act in a professional manner according to set guidelines for professional conduct and behaviour.
- 5.6. All Classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated in these Rules. If any Classification Personnel are found to have breached the described terms, Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action may be made against them, including a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revocation of their certification as Classifiers of IFCPF.
- 5.7. Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to IFCPF.
- 5.8. If IFCPF receives such a report, it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.9. IFCPF has the discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

## **6. Classification Administration and Development**

### **Section 6.1. IFCPF Classification Committee**

- 6.1. The IFCPF Classification Committee is a group responsible for the administrative and development duties related to International Classification in CP-Football.
- 6.2. The Duties of the Classification Committee include, but are not limited to: evaluation and revision of classification rules, policy and procedures related to Athlete Evaluation and Protests, Classifier Certification and Training and other related administration of classification.
- 6.3. The IFCPF Classification Committee is chaired by the IFCPF Head of Classification (HoC). This person is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administration of classification and reports to the IFCPF Governing Board on behalf of the Classification Committee.
- 6.4. The rest of the Classification Committee is composed of the Education Coordinator, Research Coordinator and 'ad hoc' Classifiers at the discretion of the HoC for their skills and background as well as the importance for regional development.



- 6.5. All Classification Committee members are ratified by the IFCPF Governing Board. It is the aim of the committee to have representatives from each region and a combination of all types of classifiers on the committee.
- 6.6. The role of the committee is to assist in the development of classification within the regions and to act as a resource for other classifiers within their region as well as for the individual sports. The Classification Committee members also act as a resource to the HOC and Research and Education Coordinators.
- 6.7. In addition to the above, members of the IFCPF Classification Committee may select an Athlete to serve as an Athlete Classification representative in an advisory capacity. This individual may be utilised for his/her perspective as an athlete or former athlete in the sport, with experience in situations such as Athlete Evaluation, Protests, evaluation of Classification Rules and development of new Classification Rules and/or Policies and Procedures related to Classification.
- 6.8. Members of the IFCPF Classification Committee can also be appointed as members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee (Section 8.1: Article 8.8.3)

## **Section 6.2. Classification Education Coordinator**

- 6.9. The HoC can propose to the IFCPF Governing Board a Classification Education Coordinator to manage all the relevant issues described in Section 2.5 regarding Classification Training and Accreditation.
- 6.10. The Classification Education Coordinator's duties include, but are not limited to:
  - Ongoing development and evaluation of comprehensive training and certification program for classifiers;
  - Ongoing development and evaluation of training curriculum and tools, including introductory workshops and practical seminars, web-based resources and presentation materials;
  - Assisting in recruitment, retention and development of international classifiers;
  - Appointing, in consultation with the HoC, classifier tutors/mentors for all international certification practical clinics;
  - Generating a classifier Certification and training competition report within 30 days following the conclusion of a competition where training takes place and submit the report to the HoC; and
  - Maintaining a list of Classifiers in Training and their levels of training achieved.



### **Section 6.3. Classification Research Coordinator**

- 6.11. The HoC can propose to the IFCPF Governing Board a Research Coordinator to design and implement research actions for the development of an evidence-based classification system, as required by Article 10.2 of the [IPC Athlete Classification Code](#) (IPC, 2015).
- 6.12. The Research Coordinator's duties include, but are not limited to:
- Providing ideas to support and improve the classification system used for IFCPF by evidence-based research;
  - Developing research questions that can be used by researchers for future research programs/proposals;
  - Monitoring international classification research in Paralympic sport, in particular for athletes with CP, ABI and other neurological conditions similar to the athletes that meet the minimum impairment criteria for CP-Football;
  - Establishing collaborations with other research groups, individuals and/or sport federations which are working in the field of evidence-based classification research;
  - Communication of results and reports, representing IFCPF at scientific meetings related to Para-sports; and
  - Providing content to the IFCPF Communication Manager to disseminate evidence in CP-Football classification.

### **Section 6.4. Classification Officer**

- 6.13. The Classification Officer is the person representing IFCPF in the face of organising committees, assisting the Head of Classification for the implementation of all the relevant classification issues.
- 6.14. The Classification Officer duties include, but are not limited to:
- Assisting in the organisation and maintenance of the IFCPF Master List, including a current list of internationally accredited classifiers and certification levels;
  - Making amendments and improvements to the database as required;
  - Distributing the database in a secure format to the HoC and Chief Classifiers as requested, complying with the [IPC's International Standard for Classification Data Protection](#); and
  - Collating and providing reports on Classifiers' activities on request.
- 6.15. In cooperation with the HoC and/or the Education Coordination, the following administration processes will be followed in the appointment of Classifiers for IFCPF sanctioned events.



- Call for Classifiers.
- Call for Classifiers in Training.
- Appointment of Classification Panels and Notification Process.
- Chief Classifiers duties pre-event, during the event and post-event.
- Classifiers duties regarding Classification results and 'posting'.



## Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

### 7. General Provisions

- 7.1. IFCPF has specified in these 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.
- 7.2. In IFCPF-sanctioned events, the Competition starts the first day of classification.
- 7.3. In IFCPF-sanctioned events, Athletes must be 15 years of age on 1 January of the tournament year.
- 7.4. In Under 19 tournaments, Athletes must be at least 14 years of age on 1 January of the tournament year and under 19 years of age on 1 January of the tournament year. In Under 19 tournaments a team can enter three players under 21 years of age on 1 January in the tournament year.
- 7.5. Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps, and these Classification Rules, therefore, include provisions regarding:
  - 7.5.1. an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for CP-Football;
  - 7.5.2. an assessment of whether the Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for CP-Football; and
  - 7.5.3. the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to CP-Football, including Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 7.6. The assessment of whether or not an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for CP-Football, the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of a Sport Class Status must be undertaken by a Classification Panel in accordance with [IPC's International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#) (IPC, 2016).



## **8. Eligible Impairment**

- 8.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in CP-Football must have an Eligible Impairment, and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 8.2. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in CP-Football.
- 8.3. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix One is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

### **Section 8.1. Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 8.4. IFCPF must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - 8.4.1. Any Athlete who wishes to compete in a CP-Football International Competition must satisfy IFCPF that he or she has an Eligible Impairment before he or she can participate in an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel.
  - 8.4.2. IFCPF requires the Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition in order to establish that he or she has an Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
  - 8.4.3. The means by which IFCPF determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of IFCPF, requiring of their members the presentation of Medical Diagnostic Information before international competitions. However, IFCPF may consider an Athlete's Eligible Impairment to be sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
  - 8.4.4. If, in the course of determining whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for CP-Football, IFCPF becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be such that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or that there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC), in accordance with Article 11 of these Classification Rules. In such instances, IFCPF will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant IFCPF Member.
- 8.5. An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply IFCPF with Diagnostic Information, which must be provided as follows:
  - 8.5.1. The relevant IFCPF Member must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF) to IFCPF (Annex 2), upon completing the registration as an Athlete. MDF might be received eight (8) weeks prior to the beginning of the Athlete's first international classification.



- 8.5.2. The MDF must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional (i.e. physician). Good practices for this requirement include, but are not limited to:
  - 8.5.2.1. completion of the MDF by a professional with neurology expertise or background, avoiding general doctors or non-specialist physicians;
  - 8.5.2.2. inclusion of, at minimum, information about the Athlete's diagnosis and/or Health Condition;
  - 8.5.2.3. inclusion of the official stamp from the health's professional workplace and professional registration number; and
  - 8.5.2.4. provision of all included information in English, or else the attachment of an official translation to the original document in the local language.
- 8.5.3. The MDF must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by IFCPF.
- 8.6. IFCPF may require an Athlete to re-submit the MDF (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if IFCPF at its sole discretion considers the MDF and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 8.7. If IFCPF requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee in those cases that will be necessary to assess the Diagnostic Information prior to the Competition (e.g. if an Athlete has a coordination impairment but the origin of the Underlying Health Condition is not clear).
- 8.8. The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
  - 8.8.1. The Head of Classification or Classification Officer will notify the relevant IFCPF Member that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required and the purposes for which it is required.
  - 8.8.2. All diagnostic information should be submitted to IFCPF eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition. This exact date will be set four (4) months prior to the event.
  - 8.8.3. 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 and be Level 2 or 3 IFCPF International Classifiers. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality agreements.
  - 8.8.4. If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will



not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.

- 8.8.5. Wherever possible, all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.8.6. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be permitted to complete an Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel. The information provided by the IFCPF Member will be updated to a secure database, being accessible to the Chief Classifier appointed to the Competition where the Athlete Evaluation will be conducted.
- 8.8.7. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant IFCPF Member. The IFCPF Member will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the IFCPF Member.
- 8.8.8. If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the IFCPF Member.
- 8.8.9. 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.
- 8.9. IFCPF may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel (i.e. provide MDF or Diagnostic Information prior to the start of the Athlete Evaluation).



## **9. Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 9.1. An Athlete who wishes to compete in CP-Football must have an Eligible Impairment that meets the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for this Para-sport.
- 9.2. IFCPF has set MIC to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to this Para-sport.
- 9.3. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the MIC applicable in CP-Football and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with the MIC is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 9.4. Any Athlete who does not meet the MIC for CP-Football must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for this Para-sport.
- 9.5. A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete meets the MIC. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy IFCPF that he or she has an Eligible Impairment (Article 8).
- 9.6. In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, 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 CP-Football.

## **10. Sport Class**

- 10.1. A Sport Class is a category defined by IFCPF in these 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 CP-Football.
- 10.2. An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the MIC must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for CP-Football in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules.
- 10.3. An Athlete who meets the MIC for CP-Football 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).
- 10.4. Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IFCPF (in accordance with Article 18.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based 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 CP-Football. This evaluation must take place in a controlled, non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 10.5. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the Sport Class designations as explained in the Appendix One of these Classification Rules (FT1, FT2)



or FT3), specifying the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

## **11. Classification Not Completed**

- 11.1. If, at any stage of Athlete Evaluation for CP-Football or a Classification Panel, a Sport Class cannot be allocated to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 11.2. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will, however, be recorded for the purpose of the IFCPF Classification Master List.
- 11.3. An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in a sanctioned CP-Football Competition.



## Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

### 12. The Classification Panel

- 12.1. A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by IFCPF HoC to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation included as part of an Evaluation Session.

#### Section 12.1. General Provisions

- 12.2. International Classifications must be carried out by an IFCPF-accredited and appointed multidisciplinary Classification Panel comprised of Medical and Technical Classifiers.
- 12.3. A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least of two certified Classifiers.
- 12.4. A major Competition (i.e. qualification and/or worldwide) may have two (2) Classification Panels and one Chief Classifier.
- 12.5. 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.

#### Section 12.2. Specific Provisions

- 12.6. Four (4) or seven (7) International Classifiers will be appointed for a particular competition by the HoC. The numbers of panels and the make-up of levels of classifiers is dependent on the number of athletes to be classified and the number of countries to compete.
- 12.7. A Classification Panel must be comprised of a minimum of two (2) Classifiers, including a Medical and a Sport Technical Classifier:
- 12.7.1. For Competitions where only one (1) panel is allocated (i.e. development or regional competitions), the Classification Panel will be consist of a Panel of three (3) members: physician, physiotherapist and sports technician. Accordingly:
- 12.7.1.1. In exceptional circumstances, one of the Classifiers may also act as Chief Classifier.
- 12.7.1.2. No Protests will be dealt with and national bodies will be notified of this in the initial entry information.
- 12.7.1.3. Only Athletes with New (N) Sport Class status can be classified.
- 12.7.1.4. Classifiers should come from a minimum of two (2) countries and with at least one Level 2 or Level 3 classifier.
- 12.7.2. For Competitions where two (2) panels are allocated (i.e. continental and worldwide competitions), the Classification Panels might consist of Panels of



two (2) members: medical (physician or physiotherapist) and a sport technical classifiers. Accordingly:

12.7.2.1. An experienced Chief Classifier must be appointed, and he or she can act in case of Protest. He/she can also act in case there is no agreement with a class allocation.

12.7.2.2. Classifiers should come from three to four different countries and with at least two Level 2 or Level 3 classifiers.

- 12.8. IFCPF and competition organisers will, whenever possible, ensure that at least two Classification Panels are able to conduct Athlete Evaluation.
- 12.9. Classification Personnel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel present at a Competition or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest. Whenever possible, classification panels should be composed of classifiers from a different country of birth or citizenship from that of the Athlete who is undergoing an Evaluation Session.
- 12.10. IFCPF will wherever possible ensure that Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at a Competition do not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.
- 12.11. A Classification Panel may seek third-party expertise of any nature if it considers in its sole discretion that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.
- 12.12. Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a Competition for Athlete Evaluation. At major events, a minimum of two (2) full days is recommended, depending on the number of Athletes to be classified.
- 12.13. In exceptional circumstances, a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel will consist of one Classifier only. 'Exceptional circumstances' will arise if there are genuine and unavoidable practical difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness or conflicts) that mean that there is an insufficient number of Classifiers to constitute two-person or more Classification Panels. Regardless of circumstances, the Classifier who constitutes a single person Classification Panel must have a medical qualification that is relevant to the Eligible Impairments of the Athletes to be evaluated by that Classifier. The outcome of a classification in such circumstances cannot be a Confirmed (C) status (i.e. RFD).



## **13. Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 13.1. A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must:
  - 13.1.1. assess whether an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for CP-Football;
  - 13.1.2. assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to CP-Football; and
  - 13.1.3. conduct Observation in Competition.
- 13.2. Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 13.3. Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by IFCPF, unless IFCPF requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 13.4. The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled, non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 13.5. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and ageing may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors. However, the Athlete's training history, technical skills and age should be considered for Class Allocation, assisting the Classification Panel to determine the influence of these factors on the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and fundamental activities.
- 13.6. 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.
- 13.7. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One and must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of CP-Football.



## 14. Evaluation Sessions

- 14.1. This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 14.2. The Athlete’s National Body or National Paralympic Committee (IFCPF Member) is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions of this Article.

### Section 14.1. Preparation, Scheduling and Substitutions

- 14.3. The IFCPF Head of Classification (HoC) should appoint a Chief Classifier for the event, ideally at least three (3) months prior to a Competition.
- 14.4. Classification Panels should be appointed at least two (2) months before the event, following the guidelines of Article 12 (Section 12.2) of these Rules.
- 14.5. The HoC and the Chief Classifier should work with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the Competition to prepare Athlete lists. A minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the first day of the Competition must be allowed for Athletes’ names to be submitted to the HoC.
- 14.6. The Chief Classifier should provide the LOC and National Federation teams with a classification evaluation schedule on or before their arrival at the Competition (Figure 1). After that time, any substitutions must be approved by the Chief Classifier and Technical Delegate.

DATE								Physical and technical		Observation assessment	
Panel	Time	Family Name	First Name	Country	DoB	Entry Class	Entry Status	Out Class	Out Status	Out Class	Out Status

Figure 1. Structure of IFCPF Classification Schedule and Results Template (DoB: Date of Birth)

- 14.7. All Athletes eligible to participate in CP-Football must receive an initial classification from their own National Federation. Classification should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the IFCPF Classification and Sport Profiles, and, in particular, National Classifiers should be trained according to IFCPF-approved standards.
- 14.8. [IFCPF Classification Master List](#) details Athlete's name, Nationality, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. That information should be updated just prior to and/or during the Competition.



## Section 14.2. Provisions in Respect of Athletes

- 14.9. It is the responsibility of the National Body/Team Manager to ensure that the Athlete attends the evaluation.
- 14.10. Athletes have the right to choose one person, who must be a member of the Athlete's IFCPF Member, to accompany them when attending an Evaluation Session. If the Athlete is a minor, a member of the Athlete's IFCPF Member must accompany that Athlete.
- 14.11. The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at the Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's impairment and sport history. If needed, the person may be asked by the Classifiers to assist with communication. It is not allowed that the accompanying person take pictures or films at any stage of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.12. The Athlete and the accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by IFCPF. All Athletes must sign an [Informed Consent Form \(Annex 1\)](#) before they may be evaluated.
- 14.13. The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, IFCPF license card or event accreditation.
- 14.14. The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant for the sport that they use at Competition (i.e. football gear, shirt and shorts). The Athlete also should bring running shoes. It is optional the use of short leggings along with shorts to make the clinical assessment more comfortable to the athlete (e.g., spasticity assessment). If an Athlete does not appear with the appropriate attire he or she will not be classified.
- 14.15. The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 14.16. In case the Medical Information has not been sent in advance, the Athlete must provide information (written in English) to the panel regarding impairment, medication and any surgery that affects sport performance. If an Athlete has an unusual or complicated impairment, it is required that the Athlete bring information about the impairment written in English. Athletes must present a full list of medications to the Classification Panel.
- 14.17. If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, he or she will not be evaluated at that time. The Chief Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation.
- 14.18. If an Athlete has any condition (e.g. seizure disorder) which is a secondary characteristic of his/her neurological condition, he or she will be permitted to compete provided that the condition is controlled and medical clearance has been given by the Athlete's team doctor.



- 14.19. An Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 14.20. The Athlete may be videotaped for classification and educational purposes.

### **Section 14.3. Provisions in Respect of the Classification Panel**

- 14.21. The Classification Panel may request that 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.
- 14.22. The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by IFCPF. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the IFCPF Member will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 14.10 above.
- 14.23. 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.
- 14.24. In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 14.23, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, IFCPF Member and IFCPF (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 14.25. Video footage and/or photography may be utilised at any time by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes. And also, if consented, for research and educational purposes.

### **Section 14.4. Athlete Evaluation Stages**

- 14.26. Assessment of Eligible Impairment and MIC is also called *Physical Assessment* and may include, but is not limited to, examination by Medical Classifiers of the Classification Panel (see Figure 2 below). The Classification Panel will also gather information on the Athlete's history in the sport.

#### **Section 14.4.1. Assessment of Eligible Impairments**

- 14.27. This step is described in detail in Article 8 of these Classification Rules.
- 14.28. An Athlete will only be eligible to compete in CP-Football if he or she has a relevant Eligible Impairment. As provided for in the [IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments](#), an Athlete may be required by the IFCPF to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition (i.e cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury) that may lead to an Eligible Impairment, or demonstrate the existence of an Eligible Impairment. Whether or not this is required will depend on the relevant Eligible Impairment and is explained in Appendix One about Eligible Impairments for CP-Football and Assessment Methods.



- 14.29. The Athlete, through his or her IFCPF Member, must provide to IFCPF the Diagnostic Information Form (Annex 2) six (6) weeks before the start of the competition where the Athlete will participate the first time (i.e. only Athlete with entry New Status).
- 14.30. If an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be Not Eligible (NE) to compete in CP-Football.

#### **Section 14.4.2. Assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 14.31. This step is also described in detail in Article 9 of these Classification Rules.
- 14.32. Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) refers to the minimum level of impairment required to participate in CP-Football (see Appendix One).
- 14.33. MIC requires a verifiable and permanent neurological impairment that must disadvantage Athletes as far as competing in regular high-level or professional able-bodied football; AND must impact in the performance of the following (one or more), but not limited to, football skills or features:
- Run (i.e. straight sprints)
  - Change of Direction (COD)
  - Jump (i.e. heading)
  - Pass and/or Kick
  - Dribbling and Control of the ball
  - Stability (i.e. defensive/offensive actions, rapid-movement actions)
  - Goalkeeper Skills
- 14.34. The MIC should be based on the impact of the impairment alone, without considering whether the impact of the impairment could be reduced with the use of technical aids or equipment. Special provisions of this Rule are:
- 14.34.1. Lower limb devices to stabilize or protect a joint are allowed.
- 14.34.2. Upper limb rigid splints or rigid materials on arms are not allowed.
- 14.34.3. Electronic devices (e.g. Walkaide™) to improve motor proficiency are also not allowed.
- 14.34.4. Report of Botox injections during the MIC Assessment is compulsory, providing information about the date of the last injections and muscle groups involved.
- 14.35. If an Athlete does not comply with the MIC of one of the Eligible Impairments described in Appendix One (Section 2) the Athlete will be Not Eligible (NE) to compete in CP-Football.



### Section 14.4.3. Technical Assessment

- 14.36. This evaluation takes place in a controlled, non-competitive environment (preferably in a football pitch) that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities (i.e. reliable/validated test and pre-designed small game situations), including:
- 14.36.1. Passing/Shooting
  - 14.36.2. Offensive/Defensive Skills
  - 14.36.3. Dribbling and control of the ball
  - 14.36.4. Running/Change of Direction
  - 14.36.5. Jumping/Heading
- 14.37. Classification schedule can be organised or modified to allow this Stage of the Athlete Evaluation (i.e. grouping Athletes to conduct small games situations). Technology for these evaluations that may be implemented includes, but is not limited to: videocamera or GPS tracking systems (Yanci et al., 2017a,b).
- 14.38. The technical assessment will be conducted by a Technical Classifier, including a warm-up where dynamic general coordination of the Athletes can be evaluated. Evaluation of the activity limitation includes, but is not limited to:
- 14.38.1. *Coordination*, defined as the ability to voluntarily execute fluid, accurate movements rapidly.
  - 14.38.2. *Balance*, defined as the ability to maintain the line of gravity (vertical line from the centre of mass) of a body within the base of support with minimal postural sway.
  - 14.38.3. *Symmetry*, defined as the correspondence and/or movement similarity on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.
  - 14.38.4. *The range of movement*, defined as the full movement or optimal potential of a joint, usually its range of flexion and extension. Includes follow-through after a pass or kick.
  - 14.38.5. *Arm impairment*, defined as the contribution of the arms to perform the whole movement.
- 14.39. The whole technical assessment process should be video-recorded.
- 14.40. Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment, using all the equipment and technical aids (e.g. straps) that the athlete is going to use in Competitions.
- 14.41. Technical assessment of a Goalkeeper includes, but is not limited to:
- 14.41.1. Side-step and backwards walk/run.
  - 14.41.2. Drop to the ground to stand up.
  - 14.41.3. Trap aerial balls.



14.41.4. Kick the ball to a long distance.

14.41.5. Unilateral throw-in.

14.41.6. Punching.

#### **Section 14.4.4. Sport Class Allocation for Competition**

14.42. An Athlete who meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for CP-Football must be allocated a Sport Class prior to the start of the Competition.

14.43. Considerations about Sport Class are described in detail in Article 10.

## **15. Observation in Competition**

15.1. All internationally classified Athletes should undertake Observation in Competition before a Classification Panel allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete. The Athlete will be entered in that particular competition with the Sport Class allocated after the conclusion of the other components of the Athlete Evaluation: assessment of an Eligible Impairment (Section 14.4.1), assessment of MIC (Section 14.4.2), and assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform specific tasks and fundamental activities for CP-Football (Section 14.4.3).

15.2. The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One (Section 4.3).

15.3. If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session. Reasons to conduct the Observation in Competition assessment include, but are not limited to:

15.3.1. To observe the Athlete's proficiency in challenging real-game situations, especially against teams of similar level;

15.3.2. To observe the impact of factors related to cerebral palsy or brain injury such as stress or fatigue;

15.3.3. To resolve doubts regarding borderline cases; and

15.3.4. To compare the skills demonstrated during the game with regards to those performed during the technical assessment (i.e. as a basis for investigating into cases of potential intentional misrepresentation).

15.4. An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.

15.5. Observation in Competition should take place during *First Appearance*. In this regard:



- 15.5.1. First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in a particular Sport Class during the official time of a match in an IFCPF Competition.
- 15.5.2. Thirty (30) minutes in men's competitions and twenty-five (25) minutes in women's competitions of continuous participation during a game is a time of reference to conduct Observation in Competition.
- 15.5.3. A Classification Panel can maintain OA for the next match/matches if they do not achieve a final consensus for Sport Class Allocation. Some of the reasons are, but not limited to:
  - 15.5.3.1. The Player did not participate enough in the game, at the discretion of the Classification Panel.
  - 15.5.3.2. The level of the match does not challenge the Player's potential.
  - 15.5.3.3. The Player is injured.
  - 15.5.3.4. The Classification Panel could not conduct OA (e.g. too many players to observe).
- 15.6. First Appearance must take place during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. Teams should not be permitted to select Athletes for participation in elimination rounds if those Athletes have not made a First Appearance in earlier non-elimination rounds. Because of the different nature and/or types of competitions in CP-Football, special provisions of this rule are:
  - 15.6.1. OA is allowed before semi-finals in competitions of twelve (12) to sixteen (16) teams.
  - 15.6.2. OA is allowed before finals in competitions of six (6) to eight (8) teams.
  - 15.6.3. Application of special provisions 15.6.1 or 15.6.2 must be communicated by the Chief Classifier in conjunction with the IFCPF Technical Delegate at the first Technical Meeting before the start of the competition.
- 15.7. If an Athlete is:
  - a) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
  - b) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
  - c) pursuant to the second Evaluation Session, the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code 'OA'.
  - 15.7.1. The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.



- 15.8. Observation in Competition Assessment must not take place during the finals of a competition.
- 15.9. In exceptional circumstances, Observation in Competition may include Classifiers attending a Team training session at the discretion of a Classification Panel or the Chief Classifier. Specifically:
  - 15.9.1. This action must be conducted during training sessions scheduled during a particular competition.
  - 15.9.2. In agreement with the Head Coach and the Team Manager, a specific evaluation can be conducted at the end of the training session.

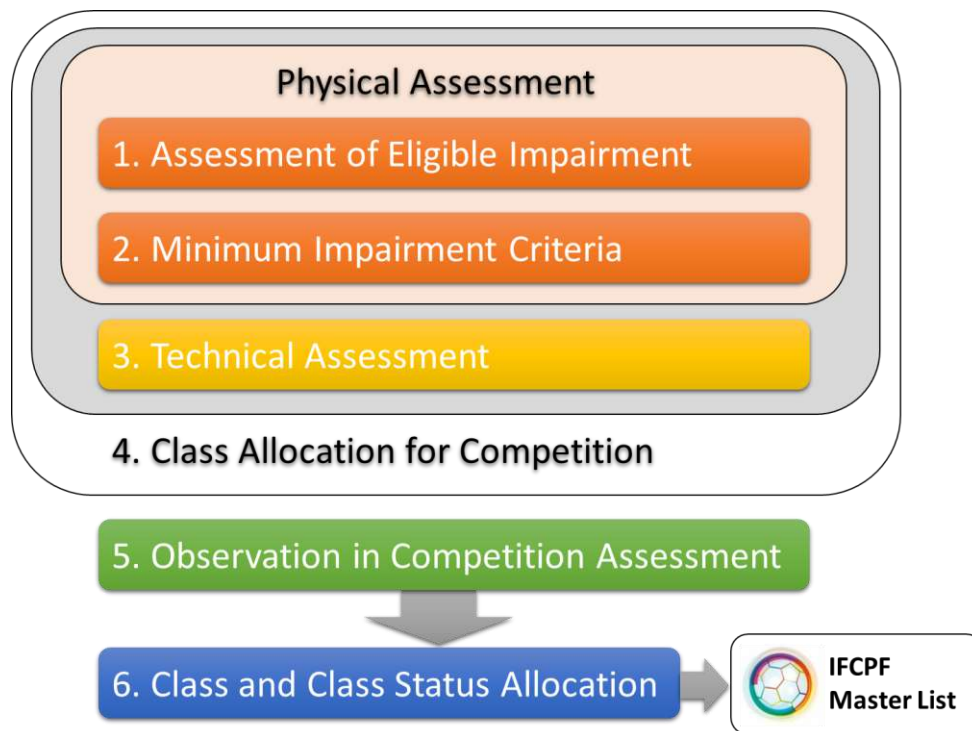


Figure 2. Stages of the Athlete Evaluation process

### Section 15.1. Changes in Sport Class after Observation

- 15.10. If any changes to an Athlete's Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of Observation in Competition Assessment:
  - 15.10.1. The Chief Classifier shall inform the national team representative and the LOC of the Classification Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible;
  - 15.10.2. The change of Sport Class will be effective immediately;



- 15.10.3. The LOC may make adjustments to start lists in accordance with the IFCPF Laws of the Game; and
- 15.10.4. The LOC (under the supervision of the TD and Chief Classifier) must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as is logistically possible.
- 15.11. Written notification of any changes resulting from Classification in Competition period must be provided to the Athlete. This will include:
  - a) the Athlete's assigned Sport Class; and
  - b) the Athlete's updated Sport Class Status.

## **16. Sport Class Status**

- 16.1. If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. 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.
- 16.2. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
  - 16.2.1. Confirmed (C)
  - 16.2.2. Review (R)
  - 16.2.3. Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

### **Section 16.1. Sport Class Status New (N)**

- 16.3. An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by IFCPF prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session.
- 16.4. Any such Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status New (N), and the Sport Class is usually provided by the IFCPF Member with the final Entry-List for a particular Competition.
- 16.5. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at an International Competition, unless IFCPF specifies otherwise.
- 16.6. Athletes who are entered for an IFCPF International Competition but who have not competed at an International Competition previously (or are returning to International Competition in 2 years) will have Sport Class Status 'New', meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at that Competition.



## **Section 16.2. Sport Class Status Review (R)**

- 16.7. An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required. The Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition.
- 16.8. If the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required this may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
  - 16.8.1. has only recently entered Competition in CP-Football;
  - 16.8.2. has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; or
  - 16.8.3. has not reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity (i.e. is a minor - under 18 years old-).
- 16.9. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any CP-Football International Competition, unless IFCPF specifies otherwise.
- 16.10. A Classification Panel that consists of one Classifier may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).

## **Section 16.3. Sport Class Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)**

- 16.11. An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
  - 16.11.1. An Athlete with an FRD will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
  - 16.11.2. An Athlete who has been allocated an FRD may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
  - 16.11.3. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with an FRD but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 16.12. The FRD will be the first day of the Competition Season for CP-Football indicated by the Classification Panel or an alternative date set by the Classification Panel or the Chief Classifier.



## **Section 16.4. Class Status Confirmed (C)**

- 16.13. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, that it has a verifiable impact on the performance of the football skills for a specific Sport Class and that it will remain stable.
- 16.13.1. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 19), Medical Review (Article 31) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 16.17).
- 16.13.2. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 16.14. The Athlete is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation, except in the circumstances described Section 4.1.4 (Article 4.14), where an Athlete's classification of Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) can be protested by an IFCPF Protest.

## **Section 16.5. Special Provisions**

- 16.15. If it is possible, an Athlete who undergoes a second International Classification (entry status R or RFD) should be evaluated by a senior Classification Panel. The Chief Classifier may organise the Classification Panel at his/her discretion to comply with this provision.
- 16.16. Due to the variable nature of recovery after Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), the Athlete with an ABI will not be given Confirmed Status (C) until at least six (6) years post-injury. The athlete will remain Review Status (R) or Review with Fixed Date (RFD) until at least six (6) years' post-injury, receiving the same Sports Class in a minimum of two (2) consecutive IFCPF-sanctioned Competitions after this 6-year period but not in the same year (i.e. in a period of 12 months).

## **Section 16.6. Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 16.17. If IFCPF changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
- 16.17.1. IFCPF may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
- 16.17.2. IFCPF may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 16.17.3. in both instances the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee shall be informed as soon as is practicable.



## 17. Notification

- 17.1. The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be reported to the Athlete and/or IFCPF Member and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation. Special provisions about results posting can be established by LOC.
- 17.2. IFCPF must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the [Classification Master List](#) at IFCPF website.

### Section 17.1. Notification of Sport Class Status for New Athletes

- 17.3. Athletes with Sport Class Status N may receive a tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) or Not Eligible (NE) following completion of Physical Assessment (Sections 14.4.1 and 14.4.2 above) and Technical Assessment (Section 14.4.3 above).
- 17.4. Following OA (Article 15), Athletes will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status Review (R), Fixed Review Date (FRD) or Confirmed (C).

### Section 17.2. Notification of Sport Class Status for Review or Fixed Review Date Athletes

- 17.5. Athletes with Sport Class Status R will receive a Tracking Code of Observation Assessment (OA) or Not Eligible (NE) following completion of Physical Assessment (Sections 14.4.1 and 14.4.2 above) and Technical Assessment (Section 14.4.3 above).
- 17.6. Following OA (Article 15), Athletes will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status:
  - 17.6.1. If Confirmed (C), no further Evaluation is required.
  - 17.6.2. For Review (R) or with Fixed Review Date (FRD), a maximum of three Athlete Evaluations can be conducted over a period of at least three (3) years. Unless for medical reasons, no 2 reviews should be within 12 months.



Table 2. Athlete Evaluation Pathway (red = no further evaluation is possible)

Pre-Competition	Post-Evaluation Period (during competition)	Post-First Appearance
<b>N</b>	→ <b>OA</b> (tracking code) or <b>NE</b> → 2nd Evaluation <b>NE</b> or → <b>OA</b> (tracking code)	→ <b>C or R or FRD</b>  → <b>R or FRD</b>
<b>R or RFD</b>	→ <b>OA</b> (tracking code) or <b>NE</b> → 2nd Evaluation <b>NE</b> or → <b>OA</b> (tracking code)	→ <b>C or R or FRD</b>  → <b>R or FRD</b>

### Section 17.3. Notification to Athlete and National Team

- 17.7. Following Completion of Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete shall be informed of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class and Sport Class Status. Communication will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made.
- 17.8. Written notification will be provided by the Chief Classifier to the Athlete's National Federation representative and will include:
- the Athlete's assigned Sport Class, and
  - the Athlete's updated Sport Class Status.

### Section 17.4. Notification to Third Parties

- 17.9. The LOC shall provide all relevant information that teams may require for viewing Classification in Competition of any Athletes who enter a Competition with an N, R or RFD Sport Class Status.
- 17.10. At the end of each session during the Athlete Evaluation period, the Chief Classifier must provide details of assigned Sports Classes and updated Sports Class Status to the LOC and the Technical Delegate, including an update of the IFCPF Classification Master List if it is possible.



## **Section 17.5. Final Confirmation at the End of the Competition**

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

## **Section 17.6. Post-Competition Notification**

- 17.12. The results from Classification at each Competition will be posted for all countries on the IFCPF website (update of the [Classification Master List](#)) as soon as is logistically possible.
- 17.13. If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Sport Class Status in manifest error and/or clear breach of these Rules, he or she shall:
- 17.13.1. advise the Athlete and the relevant IFCPF Member as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief; and
  - 17.13.2. immediately amend the Athlete's Sport Class Status, and advise the Athlete and the relevant IFCPF Member. IFCPF will make the appropriate amendment to the Classification Master List.



## **Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible**

### **18. Sport Class Not Eligible**

#### **Section 18.1. General Provisions**

- 18.1. If IFCPF determines that an Athlete:
  - 18.1.1. has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - 18.1.2. does not have an Underlying Health Condition,IFCPF must allocate that Athlete Sport Class not Eligible (NE).
- 18.2. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for CP-Football, that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for CP-Football.

#### **Section 18.2. Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 18.3. If IFCPF determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
  - 18.3.1. will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - 18.3.2. will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by IFCPF.
- 18.4. If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment for CP-Football, the IFCPF may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 8 of these Classification Rules.
- 18.5. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IFCPF or a Classification Panel (if delegated by IFCPF) because that Athlete has
  - 18.5.1. an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment, or
  - 18.5.2. a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition,has no right to request that such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport.



### **Section 18.3. Failure to Meet Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 18.6. A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable (see Table 2).
- 18.6.1. 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.
- 18.6.2. If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not meet the 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 Confirmed (C).
- 18.7. 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.
- 18.8. If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for CP Football (i.e. permanent impairment and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete in regular-high level or professional football), the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 18.9. If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this should not be construed as questioning the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in CP-Football.
- 18.10. An Athlete deemed NE cannot be substituted for or replaced by another Athlete during a particular Competition.



## Part Six: Protest

### 19. Scope of a Protest

- 19.1. The term Protest is used in these Rules as it is in the [IPC's International Standard for Protest and Appeals](#). It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 19.2. 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.
- 19.3. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 19.4. IFCPF is the responsible body to resolve any Protest made in respect to an Athlete's Sport Class in CP-Football.

### 20. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

- 20.1. A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
  - 20.1.1. a National Body (see Articles 21-22); or
  - 20.1.2. a National Paralympic Committee (see Articles 21-22); or
  - 20.1.3. IFCPF (see Articles 23-24).
- 20.2. A National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee are referred in these Classification Rules as 'IFCPF Member/s'.
- 20.3. There is no opportunity for an Athlete to make a Protest by himself or herself. A Protest must only be made on behalf of an Athlete by the Athlete's IFCPF Member.

### 21. National Protest

- 21.1. An IFCPF Member may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside (Non-Competition Venue) for Athlete Evaluation by IFCPF.
- 21.2. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 17 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published via:
  - 21.2.1. writing communication by the Chief Classifier to the IFCPF Member representative; or



- 21.2.2. official Classification Results Communications established by LOC in agreement with the Chief Classifier of the Competition.
- 21.3. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition, a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published.
- 21.4. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, an IFCPF Member 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.

## **22. National Protest Procedure**

- 22.1. To submit a National Protest, an IFCPF Member must show that the Protest is *bona fide*<sup>2</sup> with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form (Annex 4), which is available from IFCPF at the Competition or via the IFCPF website ([Library: Classification Documents](#)), and must include the following:
- 22.1.1. the name and country of the Protested Athlete;
  - 22.1.2. the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
  - 22.1.3. an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the IFCPF Member believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 22.1.4. reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached, save that, if the rule referenced is a discretionary rule, the Protest will not comply with this Article 22.1.4;
  - 22.1.5. any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest (e.g. video footage from competitive situations, additional medical reports);
  - 22.1.6. the signature of the National Federation representative; and
  - 22.1.7. a non-refundable Protest Fee of 150€, unless there is a different amount specified for a Competition that includes other Para-sports.
- 22.2. Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (e.g., the Chef de Mission or Team Manager).
- 22.3. The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified in Article 21.2. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with IFCPF, of which there are three possible outcomes:

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<sup>2</sup> When providing an explanation as to why a Protest has been made, the IFCPF Member needs to show that the Protest is *bona fide* (made in good faith) and not simply an allegation without any supporting evidence.



- 22.3.1. the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in Article 22.1;
- 22.3.2. the Chief Classifier may decline the Protest if he or she finds some formal deficiencies. In that case, the IFCPF Member may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by Chief Classifier within three (3) hours of the IFCPF Member being advised; or
- 22.3.3. the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in Article 22.1.
- 22.4. The Chief Classifier may contact the IFCPF Head of Classification to accept or decline a submitted Protest at her or her discretion.
- 22.5. If the Protest is dismissed, the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the IFCPF Member as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 22.6. If the Protest is accepted:
  - 22.6.1. The Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
  - 22.6.2. The Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel (Article 25) to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition where the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
  - 22.6.3. IFCPF must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## **23. IFCPF Protests**

- 23.1. IFCPF may, at its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
  - 23.1.1. it believes that an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class (i.e. if there is a good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific task for CP-Football is not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete); or
  - 23.1.2. an IFCPF Member makes a documented request to IFCPF (Annex 5), submitted to an IFCPF Administrator. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of IFCPF, and any such request does not require an IFCPF Protest or resolution at a particular Competition.
- 23.2. IFCPF Protests can be made on Athletes with either Review (R), Review with Fixed Date (RFD) or Confirmed (C) Status.



## 24. IFCPF Protest Procedure

- 24.1. If IFCPF decides to make a Protest, the IFCPF Head of Classification must advise the relevant IFCPF Member of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 24.2. The IFCPF at its discretion may submit a protest at any time.
- 24.3. The IFCPF Head of Classification must provide the relevant IFCPF Member with a written explanation as to why an IFCPF Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it justified.
- 24.4. If IFCPF makes a Protest:
  - 24.4.1. the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
  - 24.4.2. the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
  - 24.4.3. a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## 25. Protest Panel

- 25.1. A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 25 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification (see Article 3.8.11).
- 25.2. A Protest Panel must be appointed by the IFCPF Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 25.3. A Protest Panel must function independently and not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
  - 25.3.1. made the Protested Decision; or
  - 25.3.2. conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the IFCPF Member or IFCPF (whichever is relevant).
- 25.4. The IFCPF 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.
- 25.5. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.



- 25.6. The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a 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 Classification Rules.
- 25.7. The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an IFCPF Protest is final. An IFCPF Member or IFCPF may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.
- 25.8. The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class.

## **26. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available**

- 26.1. If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity<sup>3</sup> for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
  - 26.1.1. the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
  - 26.1.2. all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## **27. Special Provisions**

- 27.1. IFCPF may make arrangements (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition ("Non-Competition Venue") in accordance with Appendix Three.
- 27.2. IFCPF must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

## **Application during Major Competitions**

### **28. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests**

- 28.1. The IPC and/or IFCPF may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions (i.e. Asian Para Games, Para Pan American Games, European Para Games, and ASEAN Para Games).

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<sup>3</sup> e.g. if the Classifiers available to participate in a Protest Panel are precluded from participation in a Protest Panel due to a conflict of interest, or in the event there are limited Classifiers at a Competition.



## Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session

### 29. Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation

- 29.1. An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 29.2. An Athlete's IFCPF Member must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session at the scheduled time and place.
- 29.3. Failure to attend is defined solely as any failure to participate in an appointment set for the Athlete to meet with a Classification Panel for the purposes of an Evaluation Session. Failure to attend evaluation includes, but is not limited to:
  - 29.3.1. not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place;
  - 29.3.2. not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or
  - 29.3.3. not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel (i.e. when the Athlete is a non-English speaker or is a minor).
- 29.4. If the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier.
  - 29.4.1. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
  - 29.4.2. The athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend the evaluation.
- 29.5. If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

### 30. Suspension of Athlete Evaluation

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



- 30.1.3. the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedure/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 30.1.4. 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 an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 30.1.5. the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 30.1.6. 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
  - 30.1.7. 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.
- 30.2. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps will be taken:
- 30.2.1. 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 and/or the relevant IFCPF Member;
  - 30.2.2. if an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
  - 30.2.3. 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 will be precluded from competing in any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 30.3. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 11 of these Classification Rules.
- 30.4. A suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to a further investigation into possible Intentional Misrepresentation (Article 32).
- 30.5. Disciplinary measures can be implemented with respect to Athlete Support Personnel who are complicit in any Athlete behaviour resulting in the suspension of an Evaluation Session, or who fail to take reasonable steps to avoid a suspension taking place.



## Part Eight: Medical Review

### 31. Medical Review

- 31.1. This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 31.2. A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct. This review is referred to as 'Medical Review', and is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request' (Annex 3).
- 31.3. 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 perform the specific tasks and activities relevant to the performance of football skills, either positively or negatively, in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 31.4. A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's IFCPF Member (together with a 200€ non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). An Athlete is not able to make a Medical Review Request.
- 31.5. 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 CP-Football has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate.
- 31.6. The Medical Review Request must be completed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation (i.e. reasonably detailed medical records).
- 31.7. A Medical Review Request must be received by IFCPF as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 31.8. The Head of Classification must decide, in conjunction with such third parties as he or she considers appropriate, whether or not the Medical Review Request is to be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 31.9. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 31.3 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Body, National Paralympic Committee or IFCPF may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.10. If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.



## Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

### 32. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 32.1. 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 Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 32.2. 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.
- 32.3. If IFCPF commences disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), IFCPF will impose a provisional suspension from all Competitions until an investigation is conducted and resolved. In consequence:
  - 32.3.1. An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any Competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by IFCPF.
  - 32.3.2. An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who receives notice of a provisional suspension may apply to IFCPF for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all of the circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed. This application must be sent to the IFCPF Head of Classification and the Technical Director.
  - 32.3.3. If IFCPF imposes a provisional suspension, it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 30 days after the date of imposition of the provisional suspension if the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel requests such a hearing.
- 32.4. In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation, a hearing will be convened by IFCPF to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 32.5. Investigation of potential Intentional Misrepresentation can include, but is not limited to:
  - 32.5.1. interviews with the Athletes and the Athlete Support personnel involved;
  - 32.5.2. re-assessment of particular football skills or test used during the Physical and/or Technical Assessment;



- 32.5.3. application of a specific evidence-based test used for this purpose (e.g. Deuble, Connick, Beckman, Abernethy, & Tweedy, 2015); and
- 32.5.4. video-analysis of records done during the Technical Assessment and/or other matches (in this or other competitions).
- 32.6. 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:
  - 32.6.1. disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred,<sup>4</sup> and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
  - 32.6.2. being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from one (1) to four (4) years;<sup>5</sup>
  - 32.6.3. suspension from participation in CP-Football Competitions for a specified period of time ranging from one (1) to four (4) years;<sup>6</sup> and
  - 32.6.4. publication of their names<sup>6</sup> and suspension period.
- 32.7. 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 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Fixed Review Date Status (RFD) for a period of time from four (4) years to life.
- 32.8. 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 (4) years to life.
- 32.9. If another International Sports 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 IFCPF.
- 32.10. 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 IFCPF. This decision will involve both IFCPF Classification and Technical Committees.

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<sup>4</sup> After consultation of the Classification Panel involved, this penalty can be applied by the Chief Classifier of an International Competition after reporting and discussing this decision with the Head of Classification.

<sup>5</sup> After a report by the Chief Classifier of an International Competition, this decision will be taken by the Head of Classification in consultation with the IFCPF Classification Committee, who will communicate to the IFCPF Governing Board for its ratification.

<sup>6</sup> Appearing in the IFCPF Classification Master List with the code 'Intentional Misrepresentation' (IM).



- 32.11. Any disciplinary action taken by IFCPF pursuant to these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.



## Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

### 33. Classification Data

- 33.1. IFCPF may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 33.2. All Classification Data Processed by IFCPF must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### 34. Consent and Processing

- 34.1. Subject to Article 34.3, IFCPF may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 34.2. If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is underage) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 34.3. IFCPF may only Process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

### 35. Classification Research

- 35.1. IFCPF may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 35.2. The use by IFCPF of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 35.3. Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to IFCPF solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 35.4. IFCPF may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete (i.e. included in the IFCPF Classification Consent Form). If IFCPF 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.



## **36. Notification to Athletes**

- 36.1. IFCPF must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - 36.1.1. the fact that IFCPF is collecting the Classification Data;
  - 36.1.2. the purpose of the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - 36.1.3. the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

## **37. Classification Data Security**

- 37.1. IFCPF must:
  - 37.1.1. 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
  - 37.1.2. take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

## **38. Disclosures of Classification Data**

- 38.1. IFCPF 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.
- 38.2. IFCPF may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

## **39. Retaining Classification Data**

- 39.1. IFCPF must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.
- 39.2. IFCPF must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 39.3. IFCPF must implement policies and procedures that ensure that 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.



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

- 40.1. Athletes may request from IFCPF:
  - 40.1.1. confirmation of whether or not IFCPF Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 40.1.2. a copy of the Classification Data held by IFCPF; and/or
  - 40.1.3. correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by IFCPF.
- 40.2. A request may be made by an Athlete or an IFCPF Member on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

## **41. Classification Master Lists**

- 41.1. IFCPF must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes who enter International Competitions.
- 41.2. IFCPF make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on the [IFCPF website](http://www.ifcpf.com).



## Part Eleven: Appeals

### 42. Appeal

- 42.1. 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.

### 43. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

- 43.1. An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 43.1.1. a National Body; or
  - 43.1.2. a National Paralympic Committee.

### 44. Appeals

- 44.1. If an IFCPF Member believes that there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and that, as a consequence, an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.
- 44.2. IFCPF may designate the IPC's Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals. This Board must comprise at least three people with the appropriate skills and experience to objectively hear the Appeal and who were not involved in any way with any of the procedures that are the subject of the Appeal.
- 44.3. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws. In all instances where the BAC is the Appeal Body, an Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the [IPC Handbook](#), Section 1, Chapter 2.8 – Bylaws Board of Appeal of Classification. In all other instances, an Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the [IPC's International Standard for Protest and Appeals](#) and the relevant rules of IFCPF Classification Rules.
- 44.4. An Appeal Body does not have any power to modify, alter or otherwise change any Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status decision, for example by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.
- 44.5. An Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.
- 44.6. The Appeal Body may only rule on an Appeal if all other available remedies have been exhausted. If a Chief Classifier declines a Protest and the relevant IFCPF



Member appeals this decision, the grounds of that Appeal are limited to the decision of the Chief Classifier to decline the Protest and the (procedural) grounds of the Protest. The IFCPF Member is not permitted to introduce additional grounds that should have been included in the Protest.

## **Section 44.1. Appeal Process**

- 44.7. An IFCPF Member may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to IFCPF, which:
- 44.7.1. is made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being complained of;
  - 44.7.2. identifies the decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;
  - 44.7.3. specifies the grounds for the Appeal;
  - 44.7.4. identifies all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;
  - 44.7.5. is submitted with a non-refundable fee of 300€.
- 44.8. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, IFCPF must refer the Appeal to the BAC for resolution.

## **Section 44.2. Appeal Decision and Confidentiality**

- 44.9. The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision resolving any Appeal within three (3) months after the hearing. The decision must be provided to the Appellant, the Respondent and IFCPF. In the case of an Appeal in connection with a Competition, the outcome of the decision must be communicated to the competition organising committee.
- 44.10. The Appeal Body must either affirm the decision appealed or set aside the decision.
- 44.11. In its written decision the Appeal Body must issue a ruling stating the reasons for its decision, including the evidence relied on, and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision is set aside, the Appeal Body must specify the procedural error(s) committed.
- 44.12. The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal.
- 44.13. All Appeal proceedings are confidential and not open to the public.



## **45. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals**

- 45.1. The IPC and/or IFCPF may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions (i.e. Asian Para Games, Para Pan American Games, European Para Games, and ASEAN Para Games).



## Part Twelve: Glossary and Acronyms

### Glossary

**Activity Limitation:** Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities which may include attainment of high-performance skills and techniques.

**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. It can include devices for therapeutic or safety reasons.

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

**Appeal Body:** A body designated by IFCPF for hearing and determining the resolution of Appeals.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by IFCPF) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation. For CP-Football, we will refer to Athlete also as **Player**.

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with IFCPF 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 IFCPF to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific IFCPF international Competition.

**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 IFCPF and/or Classification Personnel in relation to Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list made available at the IFCPF website that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class that permits them to participate in an International Competition.

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

**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 Head of Classification on behalf of IFCPF, 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 Rule:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by IFCPF in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by IFCPF to develop and designate Sport Classes for CP-Football.

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in CP-Football. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or an IFCPF Member and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

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

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

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

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by IFCPF in these Classification Rules.

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities that IFCPF deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for CP-Football.

**Code:** The IPC's 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 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 IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in that Code, they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance'.

**Conflict of Interest:** A Conflict of Interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.



**Continuing Education:** The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by IFCPF to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in CP-Football.

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables IFCPF 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 CP-Football.

**Eligibility Assessment Committee:** An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment. It is a sub-committee of the IFCPF Classification Committee.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by IFCPF relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may, for example, include 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.

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

**Entry-level Education:** The basic knowledge and practical skills specified by IFCPF to begin as a Classifier in CP-Football.

**Evaluation Session:** The session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess whether that Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for CP-Football; and to allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to CP-Football. An Evaluation Session usually includes Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A match, game or singular sport contest.

**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 IFCPF to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for CP-Football.

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

**IFCPF Members:** A National Body (NB) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) with a program, activity or National Team in the country it represents.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by statement or omission) to mislead IFCPF or IFCPF Member as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to CP-Football 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.



**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, IFCPF or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sport Federation Protest:** A challenge to the outcome of Athlete Evaluation made by IFCPF in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

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

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

**Major Competition Organiser:** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition. It is also called a **Local Organising Committee** (LOC).

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** A form that an IFCPF Member 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 IFCPF 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 IFCPF Member for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**Models of Best Practice:** An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

**National Body:** Refers to the national member of IFCPF.

**National Paralympic Committee:** The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory.

**National Protest:** A challenge to the outcome of Athlete Evaluation made by an IFCPF Member in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

**Non-Competition Venue:** A Non-Competition Venue is any place or location designated by IFCPF as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available for Athletes in order 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 CP-Football.

**Para-sports:** All sport for Athletes with an Impairment whether they are featured in the Paralympic programme or not. These terms are used for all other sports events outside of the Paralympic Games.



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

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning the principal 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 and Hypertonia for CP-Football.

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

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

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

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

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

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by IFCPF, payable by the IFCPF Member when submitting a Protest.

**Protest Form:** The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Re-certification:** The process by which IFCPF must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Competition:** A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by IFCPF.

**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.

**Signatory:** 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 IFCPF with reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by CP-Football.

**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.

**Third Party:** Any natural person or legal entity other than the person to whom relevant Personal Information or Sensitive Personal Information relates.



**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.

## Abbreviations

**ABI** – Acquired Brain Injury

**BAC** – The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification

**C** – Confirmed Status

**CP** – Cerebral Palsy

**CPISRA** – Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association

**DIS** – Dyskinesia Impairment Scale

**e.g.** – *exempli gratia*: 'For example'

**HoC** – Head of Classification

**i.e.** – *id est*: 'In essence' or 'In other words'

**IFCPF** – International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football

**IPC** – International Paralympic Committee

**LOC** – Local Organising Committee

**MAS** – Modified Ashworth Scale

**MDF** – Medical Diagnostic Form

**N** – New Status

**NE** – Not Eligible

**NPC** – National Paralympic Committee

**OA** – Observation Assessment

**R** – Review Status

**RFD** – Review Fixed Date Status

**SARA** – Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia

**SVMC** – Selective Voluntary Motor Control



## Flowcharts

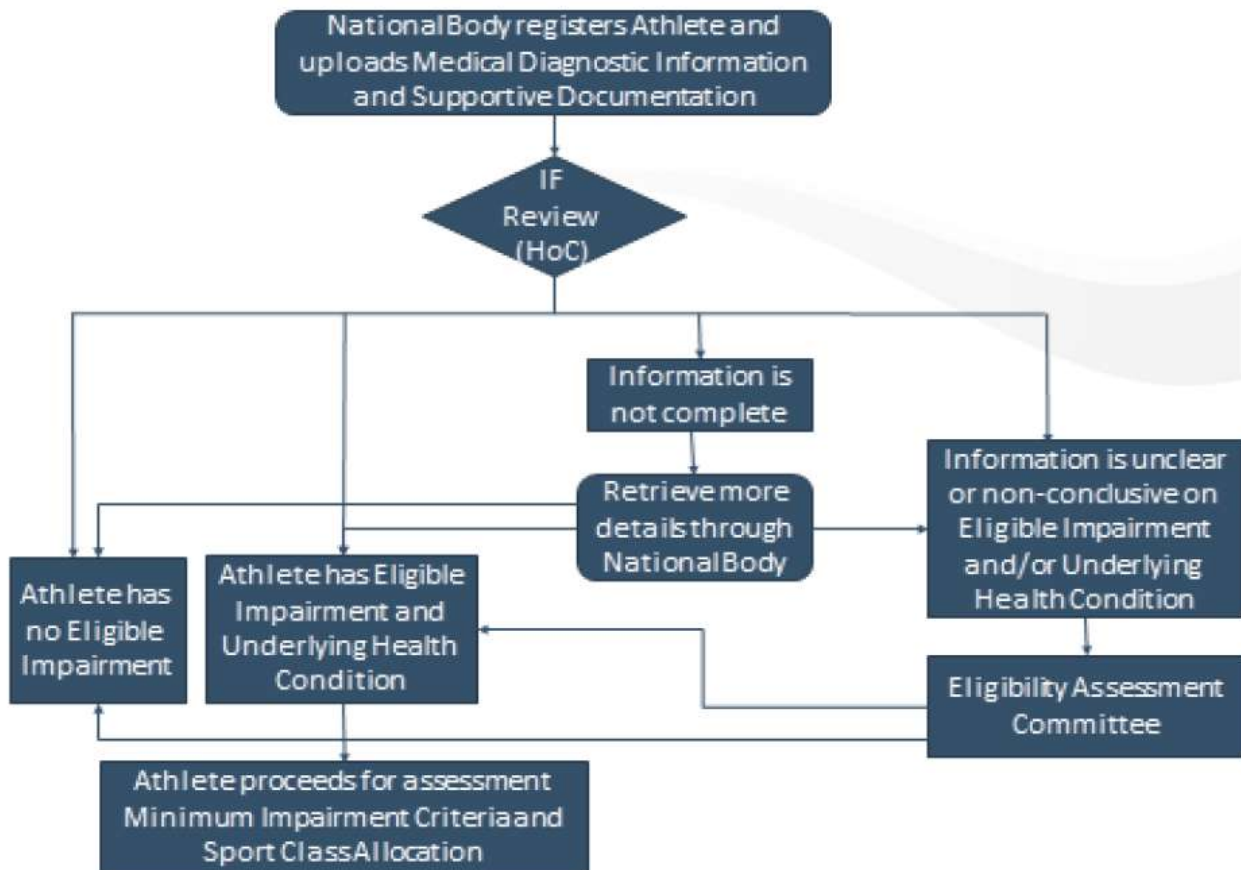


Figure 3. Eligible Impairment Assessment Flow Chart (IPC, 2017)

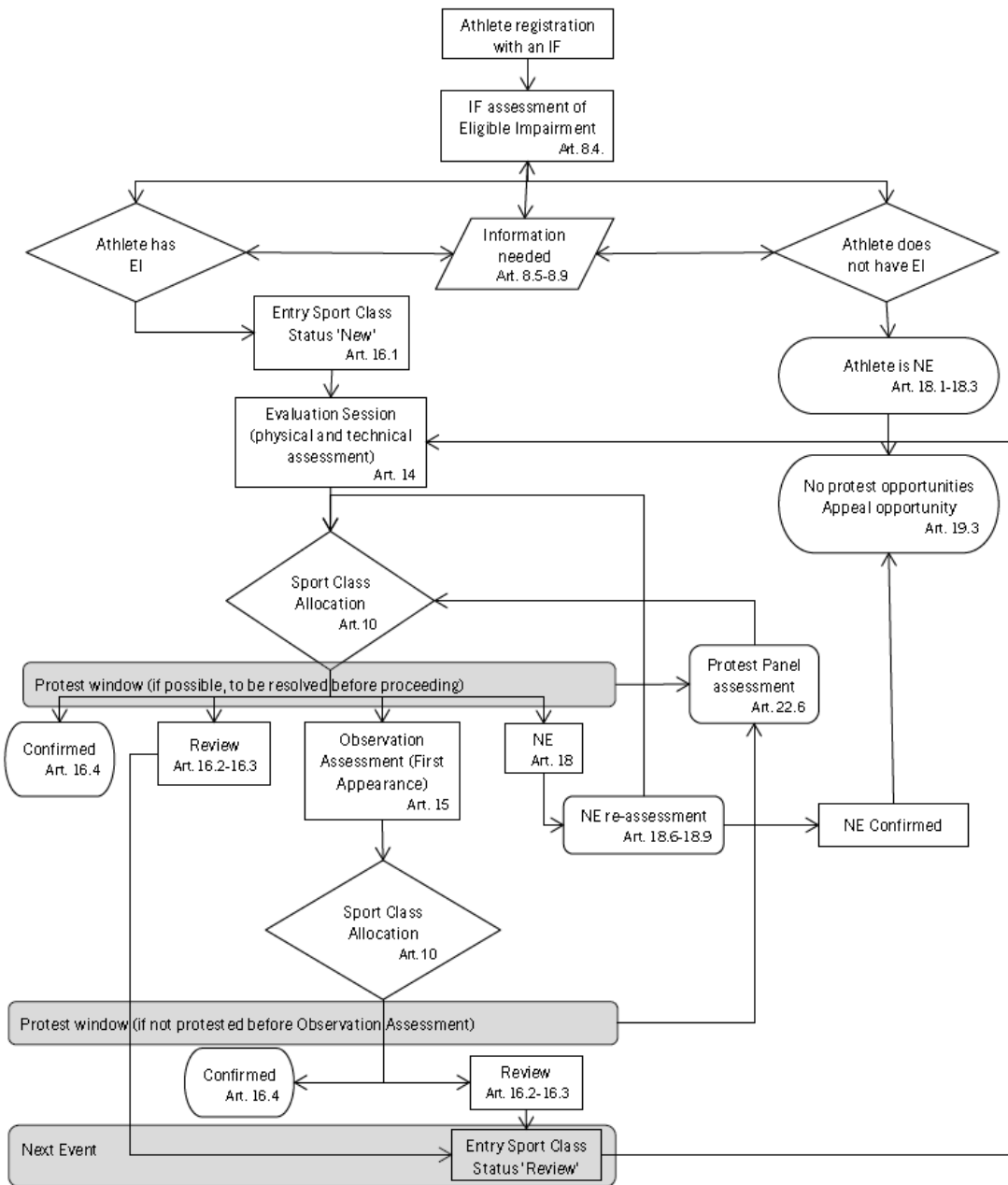


Figure 4. Athlete Evaluation Flowchart (modified from IPC, 2017)



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## APPENDIX I

### Eligible Impairments and Methods of Assessment

#### I. Eligible Impairments

In order to compete in CP-Football, an athlete must be affected by at least one of the following Eligible Impairments:

##### 1.1. Hypertonia

According to [IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments](#) (IPC, 2016), it is an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.

The most common type of hypertonia is **Spasticity**. Cans et al. (2007) describe that Spastic CP cases have increased tone and pathological reflexes, either increased reflexes, e.g. hyperreflexia or pyramidal signs, such as Babinski response. Increased tone in spasticity is characterized by an increased resistance which is velocity-dependent (Sanger et al., 2003). A spastic catch is felt sometime after the onset of movement and followed by a sudden relaxation. Velocity dependence increases as the speed of the passive movement increases.

Clonus is often associated with hyperreflexia, being a rapid, involuntary alternation of muscle contraction and relaxation and typically occurs in the ankle plantar flexors in response to rapid, passive dorsiflexion. The pathological posturing of lower limbs is characterized by: (1) internal rotation of the hip; (2) hip adduction; and (3) equinus foot, resulting in a 'scissored' position. Spastic CP may be either bilateral (limbs on both sides of the body are involved) or unilateral (limbs on one side of the body are involved).

##### 1.2. Athetosis and Dystonia (Dyskinesia)

Dyskinetic CP cases present with involuntary, uncontrolled, recurring, and occasionally stereotyped movements provoking abnormal patterns of posture and/or movement. The primitive reflex patterns predominate, and the muscle tone varies.

[IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments](#) (IPC, 2016) includes Athetosis as an Eligible Impairment for Paralympic Sport, defining it as an impairment that provokes continual slow involuntary movements.

However, for this Eligible Impairment, it is possible to subgroup it by dystonic and choreo-athetotic CP subtypes:

- **Dystonic** CP is dominated by abnormal postures (may give the impression of hypokinesia: reduced activity, i.e. stiff movement) and hypertonia (tone fluctuating, but easily elicitable tone increase). Characteristics are involuntary movements, distorted voluntary movements, and abnormal postures due to sustained muscle contractions (slow rotation, extension, flexion of body parts).



- **Choreo-Athetotic** CP is dominated by: hyperkinesia (increased activity, i.e. stormy movement) and hypotonia (tone fluctuating, but mainly decreased).
  - **Chorea** means rapid involuntary, jerky, often fragmented movements.
  - **Athetosis** means slower, constantly changing, writhing, or contorting movements.

### 1.3. Ataxia

According to [IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments](#) (IPC, 2016), athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.

Cans et al. (2007) describe that Ataxic CP cases present loss of orderly muscular coordination, so that movements are performed with abnormal force, rhythm and accuracy. An abnormal pattern of posture and/or movement in ataxic CP is characterized by: (1) Loss of orderly muscular coordination, so that movements are performed with abnormal force, rhythm and accuracy. Typical features are trunk and gait ataxia (disturbed balance) and past pointing (over- or undershooting of goal-directed movements). (2) Tremor is another common sign (mainly a slow intention tremor). (3) Low tone is also a prominent feature.

- 1.4. IFCPF provides opportunities for individuals with Neurological and/or Motor Control Impairments of a cerebral nature, causing a permanent and verifiable activity limitation in the performance of fundamental and/or master football skills. Thus, Eligible Impairment types are associated with a range of Health Conditions including, but not limited to:
- cerebral palsy (CP);
  - traumatic brain injury (TBI);
  - stroke;
  - Friedreich's Ataxia; or
  - Spino-cerebellar Ataxia.

NOTE: In order to help the identification of Eligible Impairments, Figure 5 shows a hierarchical classification tree proposed by Cans et al. (2007).

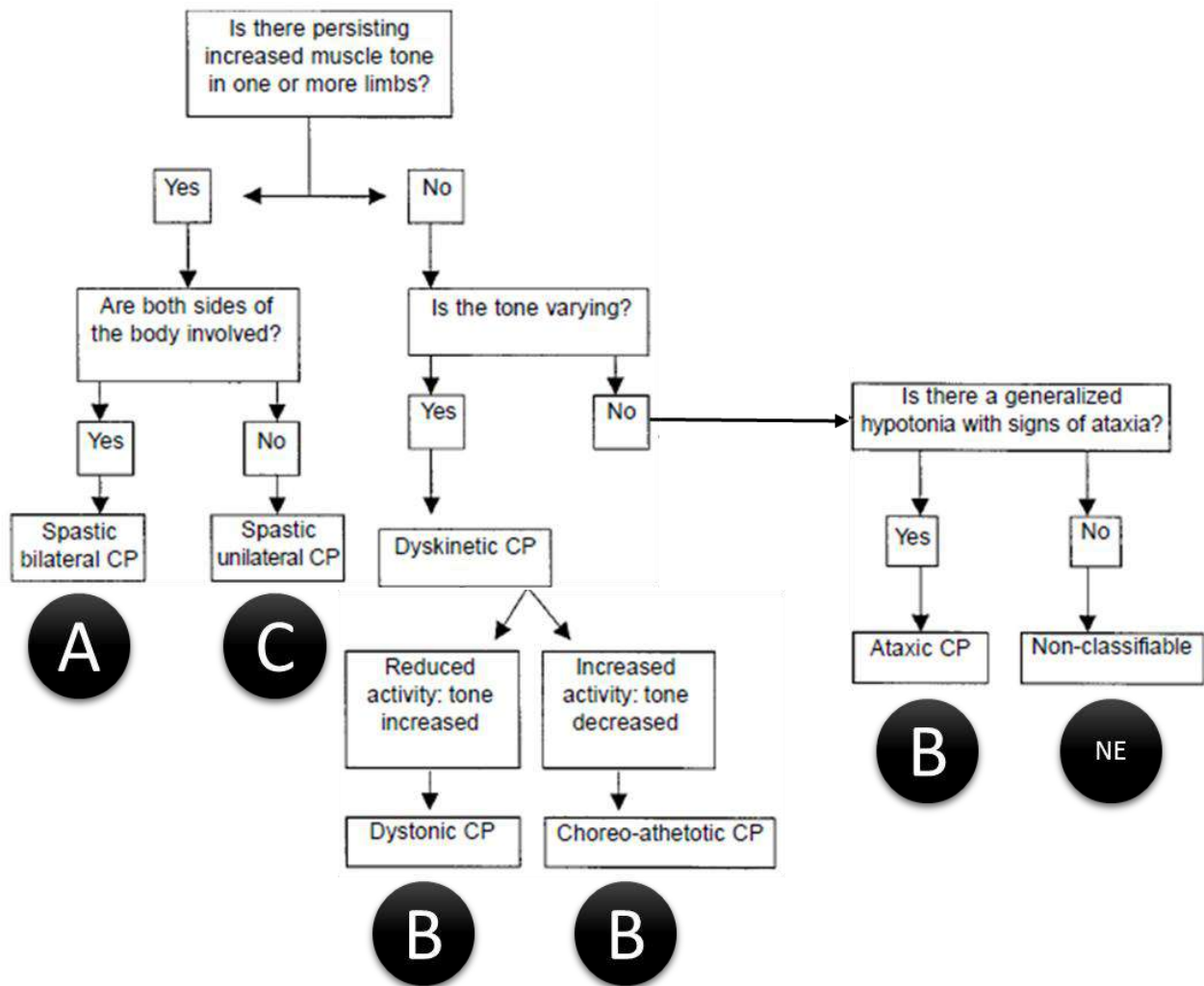


Figure 5. Hierarchical classification tree of cerebral palsy sub-types Cans et al. (2007), and its relationship with CP-Football profiles (A, B, C)

## II. Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1. As described in Article 9, Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) refers to the minimum level of impairment required to participate in CP-Football. MIC requires a verifiable and permanent neurological impairment that must disadvantage Athletes as far as competing in regular able-bodied football; AND must impact in the performance of fundamental football skills (i.e. the impairment alters the biomechanical execution or motor control in a way that is demonstrable and which adversely affects performance).



## **Section II.1. Minimum Impairment Criteria for Hypertonia**

- 2.2. Spasticity grade 2 in one (1) muscle (Article 5.19) of lower limb;
- 2.3. Spasticity grade 1+ in two (2) different muscle groups (Article 5.19) of the same leg;
- 2.4. Spasticity grade 1+ in one (1) muscle (Article 5.19) of lower limb; AND
  - 2.4.1. Spasticity grade 3 in Biceps and/or Triceps; AND/OR
  - 2.4.2. Spasticity grade 3 in Shoulder muscles.
  - 2.4.3. No MIC for wrist and/or supination/pronation
- 2.5. Sustained clonus in one (1) muscle of a lower limb, repeatable at all times.
- 2.6. Contracture in the ankle of at least 0° dorsiflexion (dorsiflexion is not possible) AND two (2) neurological upper motor neuron signs of:
  - 2.6.1. Noticeably brisk reflexes or clear difference in reflexes left vs. right.
  - 2.6.2. Positive uni- or bilateral Babinski
  - 2.6.3. Clonus > 3-4 beats (repeatable)

## **Section II.2. Minimal Impairment Criteria for Athetosis/Dystonia (Dyskinesia) and/or Ataxia**

- 2.7. The Classification Panel should satisfy itself that **Athetosis/Dystonia** is clearly evident and that it is neurological in origin for MIC establishment.
- 2.8. The Classification Panel should be satisfied that the ataxic movement is demonstrable and clearly evident during classification and that the observed **Ataxia** is due to the motor or sensory nervous system dysfunction. The MIC for Ataxia should be demonstrated with symptoms in at least two (2) of the following 3 tests:
  - 2.8.1. Berg Balance Scale Test:
    - 2.8.1.1. Reaching forward with outstretched arms while standing: max. grade 1.
    - 2.8.1.2. Turn 360°: max grade 1.
  - 2.8.2. Limitations in the performance of Y-Balance Test in 1 or more directions, uni- or bilateral.
- 2.9. Grade 2 or higher in SARA (mean score in tests included in section III.3), especially in Heel-Shin Slide, due to the involvement of lower limbs.
- 2.10. Limitation in the performance of Rapid-Heel Toe Placement or Hexagon Hop Test, impacting on Balance, Coordination, Accuracy and/or Fluency.



### III. Assessment Methodology

#### Section III.1. Hypertonia

3.1. In CP-Football, hypertonia is evaluated by the spasticity grades (Table 3) of the **Modified Ashworth Scale** -MAS- (Bohannon & Smith, 1987), evaluating the Athlete in a supine position.

Table 3. Spasticity grades according to Modified Ashworth Scale

<b>0</b>	No increase in muscle tone
<b>1</b>	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch-and-release or by minimal resistance at the end of the range of motion when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension
<b>1+</b>	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the Range of Movement
<b>2</b>	More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved
<b>3</b>	Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult
<b>4</b>	Affected part(s) rigid in flexion or extension

3.2. The (group) muscles considered for spasticity evaluation are:

3.2.1. The *Calf* muscles (no. 1 in Figure 3) are pivotal to movement of the ankle, foot and toes. Some of the major muscles of the calf include:

3.2.1.1. *Gastrocnemius* (calf muscle): One of the large muscles of the leg, it connects to the heel. Its function is plantar flexing the foot at the ankle joint and flexing the leg at the knee joint.

3.2.1.2. *Soleus*: This muscle extends from the back of the knee to the heel. It is important for walking and standing.

3.2.2. The *hamstrings* (no. 2 in Figure 3) are three muscles at the back of the thigh that affect hip and knee movement. They begin under the gluteus maximus behind the hipbone and attach to the tibia at the knee. They are:

3.2.2.1. *Biceps femoris*: This long muscle flexes the knee. It begins in the thigh area and extends to the head of the fibula near the knee.

3.2.2.2. *Semimembranosus*: This long muscle extends from the pelvis to the tibia. It extends the thigh, flexes the knee and helps rotate the tibia.



- 3.2.2.3. *Semitendinosus*: This muscle also extends the thigh and flexes the knee.
- 3.2.2.4. Hamstrings will be tested in 90° hip flexion.
- 3.2.3. The *adductors* (no. 3 in Figure 6) are a group of four muscles (Adductor Longus, Adductor Brevis, Adductor Magnus and Gracilis) located in the internal femoral region on both sides of the body. The adductors' main function is to adduct or bring the legs towards the midline of the body, occurring during any movement requiring a change of direction.

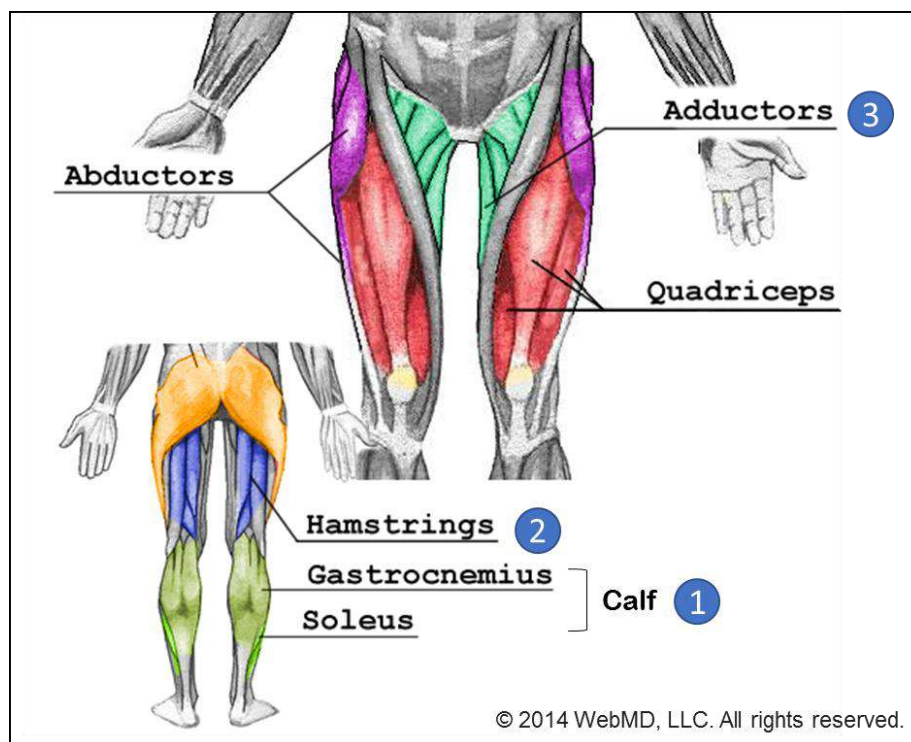


Figure 6. Principal (group) muscles for spasticity evaluation

- 3.3. The **Amsterdam Gait Classification** includes five types of gait according to their knee position and foot-floor contact in midstance (Figure 7), and is equally suitable for athletes who are affected either unilaterally or bilaterally (Grunt, 2007). The midstance is defined as the phase in the standing period during stride where there is only single limb support. This phase starts at the toe off of the contralateral leg and ends when the contralateral leg passes the reference leg.

Walking and Running will be evaluated, both in right and/or left legs according to the next scale:

**0:** Normal

**1:** Swing phase: Insufficient foot lift



- Insufficient activity in the tibialis anterior and/or shortening of the gastrocnemius.
- Insufficient foot dorsiflexion in swing phase and forefoot landing at initial contact.
- In midstance, the foot is plantigrade and the knee is in an anatomical position.

**2: Mid stance: Knee (hyper)extension without heel rise**

- Insufficient muscle tibialis anterior and, additionally, a premature activation of the muscle triceps surae.
- The forefoot- or midfoot landing may be caused not only by insufficient foot lift but also by incomplete knee extension in terminal swing due to insufficient selective motor control.
- In midstance, the foot is plantigrade and the knee remains (hyper)extended.

**3: Mid stance: Knee (hyper)extension with heel rise**

- This gait pattern is similar to type 2, but heel rise takes place in midstance. This is caused by a higher degree of abnormal activation of the triceps surae.
- In midstance, the load remains on the forefoot and the foot is not plantigrade. The knee remains (hyper)extended.

**4: Mid stance: Knee flexion in midstance with heel rise**

- Characterized by  $>10^\circ$  hip and knee flexion in midstance with heel rise.
- Caused by strong abnormal activity (with or without muscle shortening) of the gastrocnemius and hamstring muscles or by abnormal activity of the psoas and hamstring muscles.

**5: Mid stance: Knee flexion in midstance without heel rise**

- Characterized by  $>10^\circ$  hip and knee flexion in midstance, and the foot is plantigrade.
- Insufficient power of the gastrocnemius muscle must be present. Often, it is caused by previous gastrocnemius surgery or Achilles tendon lengthening, but it can also develop spontaneously.



	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5
<b>KNEE</b>	normal	(hyper)extended	(hyper)extended	flexed	flexed
<b>FOOT CONTACT</b>	complete	complete	incomplete	incomplete	complete

Figure 7. Types of gait according to the Amsterdam Gait Classification

3.4. Reflex activity will be evaluated by a Medical Classifier during the Athlete Evaluation according to Table 4.

Table 4. Reflex Activity Evaluation Form

	RIGHT			LEFT		
Biceps	-	Normal	+	-	Normal	+
Triceps	-	Normal	+	-	Normal	+
Wrist	-	Normal	+	-	Normal	+
Knee	-	Normal	+	-	Normal	+
Ankle	-	Normal	+	-	Normal	+
			Clonus <sup>7</sup> :			Clonus <sup>8</sup> :

LEGEND: - = Decreased + = Increased

<b>Babinski</b>	No	Not Definitive	Yes	No	Not Definitive	Yes
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<sup>7</sup> Clonus that lasts for 4 beats or more and which can be reliably reproduced during a single classification session (i.e., is non-damping clonus) is considered to indicate presence of Spastic hypertonicity that meets the MIC. It will be reported in number of beats (3/4 beats is indicative of Upper Motor Neuron impairment) or Repeatable = R.



## Section III.2. Athetosis / Dystonia (Dyskinesia)

3.5. Dyskinesia is evaluated by a modified version of the **Dyskinesia Impairment Scale -DIS-** (Monbaliu et al. 2012) to Evaluate Dystonia (D), Chorea (C) or Athetosis (A). The scale includes the following factors:

3.5.1. Body Regions according to the regions descriptions included in Table 5.

3.5.2. Assessment of the Amplitude of movements are:

- 0** D/CA is absent
- 1** D/CA is present in < 10% of range of motion
- 2** D/CA is present in < 10% < 50% of range of motion
- 3** D/CA is present between < 50% < 90% of range of motion
- 4** D/CA is present in > 90% of range of motion

3.5.3. Assessment of the Duration of movements are:

- 0** D/CA is absent
- 1** D/CA is present in < 10% of observed time
- 2** D/CA is present in < 25% of observed time
- 3** D/CA is present between 25-50% of observed time
- 4** D/CA is present in > 50% of observed time

Table 5. Region descriptions in the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale [slightly relevant (-), medium relevance (+), and high relevance (++)]

REGION	DYSTONIA	CHOREOATHETOSIS
<b>Eyes</b> (-)	Dystonia around the eyes, eyelids, eyebrow, forehead: e.g. sustained muscle contractions around the eyes and/or the eyelid (open/closed) and/or forced eye movement deviations, for example during eye tracking movement of fixation.	Choreoathetosis around the eyes, eyelids, eyebrows, forehead: e.g. constantly, fragmented movements around the eyes and/or blinking eyelid (open/closed) and/or variable (saccadic) eye movements, for example during eye tracking movement of fixation.
<b>Mouth</b> (-)	Dystonia around the lips, jaw, cheeks, tongue: e.g. sustained muscle contraction resulting in grimacing movement, clenched or deviated jaw, forced open mouth and/or forceful tongue thrusting.	Choreoathetosis lips, jaw, cheeks; tongue: e.g. constantly changing, fragmented movements in the lower face like grimacing, mouth movements and tongue protrusion movements.
<b>Neck</b> (-)	Dystonia in the neck: sustained muscle contraction resulting in pulling neck movements and/or posture into any plane of	Choreoathetosis in the neck: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting neck movements (wagging) into any plane of



	motion: extension, flexion, lateral flexion, rotation.	motion: extension, flexion, lateral flexion, rotation.
<b>Trunk (++)</b>	Dystonia in the trunk: e.g. sustained muscle contraction resulting in pulling trunk movements and/or posture into any plane of motion: extension, flexion, lateral flexion, rotation.	Choreoathetosis in the trunk: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting trunk movements (wagging) into any plane of motion: extension, flexion, lateral flexion, rotation.
<b>Arms Proximal (+)</b>	Dystonia in the shoulder girdle, upper arm, elbow: e.g. sustained muscle contractions causing abnormal posturing, involuntary and/or distorted voluntary movements of the proximal arm.	Choreoathetosis in the shoulder girdle, upper arm, elbow: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting movements of the proximal arm: jerky, stormy (choreo) and/or wriggling, contorting (athetosis).
<b>Arm Distal (+)</b>	Dystonia in the forearm, wrist, hand: e.g. sustained muscle contractions causing abnormal posturing, involuntary and/or distorted voluntary movements of the distal arm.	Choreoathetosis in the forearm, wrist, hand: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting neck movements of the distal arm: jerky, stormy (chorea) and/or wriggling, contorting (athetosis).
<b>Leg Proximal (++)</b>	Dystonia in the hip girdle, upper leg, knee: e.g. sustained muscle contractions causing abnormal posturing and/or distorted voluntary movements of the proximal leg.	Choreoathetosis in the hip girdle, upper leg, knee: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting movements of the proximal leg: jerky, stormy (chorea) and/or wriggling, contorting (athetosis)
<b>Leg Distal (++)</b>	Dystonia in the lower leg, ankle, foot: e.g. sustained muscle contractions causing abnormal posturing and/or distorted voluntary movements of the distal leg.	Choreoathetosis in the lower leg, ankle, foot: e.g. constantly changing fragmented or contorting movements of the distal leg: jerky, stormy (chorea) and/or wriggling, contorting (athetosis).

## Section III.3. Ataxia

3.6. Ataxia is evaluated by the **Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia** -SARA- (Schmitz-Hübisch et al., 2007), specifically the following six (modified: Reina, 2014) tests of the referred scale:

### 3.6.1. *Gait*

The athlete is asked (1) to walk 5 m parallel to a wall including a half-turn (turn around to face the opposite direction of gait) and (2) to walk in tandem (heels to toes) without support 5 m on a line:

- 0** Normal, no difficulties in walking, turning and walking tandem (up to one misstep allowed)
- 1** Slight difficulties, only visible when walking 10 consecutive steps in tandem



- 2** Clearly abnormal, tandem walking >10 steps not possible
- 3** Considerable staggering, difficulties in half-turn, but without support
- 4** Marked staggering, intermittent support of the wall required
- 5** Severe staggering, permanent support of one stick or light support by one arm required
- 6** Walking > 10 m only with strong support (two special sticks or stroller or accompanying person)
- 7** Walking < 10 m only with strong support (two special sticks or stroller or accompanying person)
- 8** Unable to walk, even supported

### *3.6.2. Stance*

The athlete is asked to stand (1) with feet together in parallel (big toes touching each other), (2) in tandem (both feet on one line, no space between heel and toe), and (3) one leg stance, left and right. All tests should be performed with the arms across the chest, Athlete does not wear shoes and eyes are open.

- 0** Normal, able to stand in tandem for > 10 s or bilateral one leg stance > 20 s
- 1** Able to stand in tandem or one leg stance (right or left) > 10 s but only with sway
- 2** Able to stand with feet together without sway, but not in tandem or in one leg (right or left) for > 10 s
- 3** Able to stand with feet together for > 10 s, but only with sway or unable to keep one leg stance > 10 s
- 4** Able to stand for > 10 s without support in natural position, but not with feet together
- 5** Able to stand for >10 s in natural position only with intermittent support
- 6** Able to stand >10 s in natural position only with constant support of one arm
- 7** Unable to stand for >10 s even with constant support of one arm

### *3.6.3. Finger chase*

Athlete sits on the bench and the Classifier in front performs five (5) consecutive sudden and fast pointing movements in unpredictable directions in a frontal plane, at about 50% of Athlete's reach. Movements have an amplitude of 30 cm and a frequency of one (1) movement every 2 s. The athlete is asked to follow the movements with his or her index finger, as fast and precisely as possible. The average performance of last 3 movements is rated:



- 0** No dysmetria
- 1** Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target < 5 cm
- 2** Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target 5-15 cm
- 3** Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target > 15 cm
- 4** Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

#### *3.6.4. Nose-finger test*

Athlete sits on the bench and is asked to point repeatedly with his or her index finger from his/her nose to examiner's finger which is in front of the Athlete at about 90% of Athlete's reach. Movements are performed at moderate speed. The average performance of movements is rated according to the amplitude of the kinetic tremor:

- 0** No tremor
- 1** Tremor with an amplitude < 2 cm
- 2** Tremor with an amplitude 2-5 cm
- 3** Tremor with an amplitude > 5 cm
- 4** Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

#### *3.6.5. Fast Alternating Hand Movements*

Athlete sits comfortably on the bench and he or she is asked to perform 10 cycles of repetitive alternation of pro- and supinations of the hand on his/her thigh as fast and as precise as possible. Movement is demonstrated by the examiner at a speed of approx. 10 cycles within 7 s:

- 0** Normal, no irregularities (performs < 10 s)
- 1** Slightly irregular (performs < 10 s)
- 2** Clearly irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, but performs < 10 s
- 3** Very irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, performs > 10 s
- 4** Unable to complete 10 cycles

#### *3.6.6. Heel-shin slide*

Athlete lies on a bench, without sight of his/her legs. He/she is asked to lift one leg, point with the heel to the opposite knee, slide down along the shin to the ankle, and lay the leg back on the examination bed. The task is performed three (3) times. Slide-down movements should be performed within 1 s. If Athlete slides down without contact to shin in all three trials, rate 4.

- 0** Normal



- 1** Slightly abnormal, contact to shin maintained
- 2** Clearly abnormal, goes off shin up to 3 times during 3 cycles
- 3** Severely abnormal, goes off shin 4 or more times during 3 cycles
- 4** Unable to perform the task

3.7. Ataxia is also evaluated by some tests from the **Berg Balance Scale (BBS)**:

*3.7.1. Reaching forward with Outstretched Arm while Standing*

Athlete lifts arms to 90 degrees, stretching out the fingers, and reaches forward as far as he or she can. The Classifier places a ruler at the end of fingertips when the arm is at 90 degrees. Fingers should not touch the ruler while reaching forward. The recorded measure is the distance from where the end of the fingers starts to where the fingers reach while the subject is in the most forward-leaning position. When possible, the player must attempt to use both arms when reaching to avoid rotation of the trunk.

- 0** can reach forward confidently 25 cm
- 1** can reach forward 12 cm
- 2** can reach forward 5 cm
- 3** reaches forward but needs supervision
- 4** loses balance while trying/requires external support

*3.7.2. Turn 360 Degrees*

The athlete must turn completely around in a full circle, pause, then turn a full circle in the other direction.

- 0** able to turn 360 degrees in both directions safely in 4 seconds or less
- 1** able to turn 360 degrees safely one side only 4 seconds or less
- 2** able to turn 360 degrees safely but slowly
- 3** needs close supervision or verbal cueing
- 4** needs assistance while turning



### **Section III.4. Selective Motor Control**

- 3.8. Selective Voluntary Motor Control (SVMC) is the ability to isolate the activation of muscles in a selected pattern by voluntary movement or posture (Sanger et al., 2006).
- 3.9. The Selective Control Assessment of the Lower Extremity (SCALE) tool (Fowler et al., 2009), which analyzes monarthric active movement, will be used in the rapid heel-toe test (see Table 6):
- 0** = no selective control, no (or minimal) contraction of the demanded muscles
  - 0.5** = small contraction, but almost no motion, and/or a lot of co-contraction
  - 1** = mild selective control, not all muscles working in a correct way, no smooth motion, with co-contraction (not always), limited range
  - 1.5** = good contraction, with correct muscles, but slightly limited range because of co-contraction or no perfect smooth motion
  - 2** = perfect control, perfect contraction with correct muscles
- 3.10. For guidance purposes only, the SCALE can also be used for a more in-depth evaluation in borderline cases, evaluating the movements included in the original tool:
- 3.10.1. Hip flexion;
  - 3.10.2. Hip abduction;
  - 3.10.3. Knee-extension;
  - 3.10.4. Ankle dorsiflexion; and/or
  - 3.10.5. Ankle eversion.

### **Section III.5. Evidence-Based Test to Evaluate Activity Limitation**

- 3.11. The IFCPF Research Plan for the development of an evidence-based classification system was started at CPISRA 2013 Intercontinental Cup (Reina, 2014). Because CP-Football is a Para-sport that requires the evaluation of multiple fundamental skills (see Section 3: Article 3.21.2), further research is necessary to optimize the new profiles described in Chapter 6 (Section 6.2). The tests described in this Section have been used with CP-Football players to evaluate their validity and reliability (e.g. Reina et al., 2016).



Table 6. Test battery to evaluate activity from Eligible Impairments in CP-Football

Test	Description and Reference	Equipment	Measure
<i>Coordination</i>			
Rapid Heel-Toe Placement	Athlete sits barefoot on a chair and places the heel on a spot placed in the centre of 20 x 30 cm rectangle. At the request of the Classifier, he/she tries to touch the corners (or touch pads), alternating heel and toe in each corner as close as possible, first left to right then around right to left.	Stopwatch Marker Standardized Evaluation set	Time (s)
Split Jumps	The athlete is requested to stand with legs slightly apart and one in front of the other. Reciprocal jump over a line changing legs (left in front, jump changing to right in front). The arms are simultaneously moved contra-lateral to the legs. Beckman & Tweedy (2009)	Stopwatch Marker	Time (s) perform 25 correct cycles
Side Stepping	The athlete is requested to stand with legs slightly apart between two lines separated at 40 cm, then jump over the line performing symmetrically leg abduction-adduction (open-close). The arms can move freely. Beckman & Tweedy (2009)	Stopwatch Marker	Time (s) perform 25 correct cycles
Hexagon Hop Test	A hexagon with 60 cm sides and 120-degree angles is marked on a hard-surface floor. The test begins with the subject standing on a tape strip placed in the middle of the hexagon (starting location) and performs double-leg hopping (jumping) from the centre of the hexagon over each side and back to the centre in a clockwise direction until the participant jumps (always facing forwards) around the hexagon 3 times and returns to the centre (18 jumps facing the same direction all the time) Beekhuizen, Davis, Kolber, & Cheng (2009)	Stopwatch Marker	Time (s)
<i>Balance</i>			
Tandem Walk	The athlete walks heel to toe along a line for 5 m. Later, he or she performs 10 correct steps on the line, and the time used is recorded. Arms to remain crossed in front of the chest.	Stopwatch Tape Measure Marker	Time (s) complete 5 m
Y-Balance Test	The goal of this test is to maintain single-leg balance on one leg while reaching as far as possible with the contralateral leg in three different directions. The three-movement directions are anterior, posteromedial and posterolateral, performed on each leg.	Y-Balance Test or Tape and Cones	Reached distance (cm)
<i>Power / Jumping</i>			
Triple Hop for Distance	Athletes are instructed to stand on one leg and perform 3 consecutive hops as far as possible, landing on the same leg. Both limbs are tested, and no restrictions are given to athletes regarding the use of arm movement. Munro & Herrington (2011)	Tape Measure Marker	Distance (m)
4 Bounds for Distance	The athlete starts on a marked line and is instructed to cover the maximum possible distance in four consecutive, single-leg bounds from a standing start. The first bound is from the non-	Tape Measure Marker	Distance (m)



	<p>preferred leg, landing on the outstretched preferred leg. Using forward momentum to continue the movement, he or she then leaps from the preferred leg to the non-preferred leg, and this pattern is repeated.</p> <p>Reina, Iturricastillo, Sabido, Campayo-Piernas, &amp; Yanci (2017)</p>		
Standing Broad Jump	<p>The athlete stands on a line and, in his or her own time, jumps as far forward as possible, landing on both feet. Familiarization includes standardized instructions, and the athlete can use the stretch-shorten cycle and the arms to increase jump distance.</p> <p>Reina, Iturricastillo, Sabido, Campayo-Piernas, &amp; Yanci (2017)</p>	Tape Measure Marker	Distance (cm)
<i>Running</i>			
Sprint 30 m	<p>The objective of this test is to provide a measure of top speed in running. Markers are placed at 0, 5, 10, 20 and 30 m, with infrared timing light gates. Athlete must complete the distance as fast as possible.</p> <p>The sprint ability may be evaluated with shorter distances (i.e. 10 m)</p>	Stopwatch Time gates	Time (s) at 10, 20 and 30 m
<i>Change of Direction (CODA) with and without Dribbling Ball</i>			
Modified Agility Test (MAT)	<p>Participant must run as fast as possible for the MAT as follows: 1) sprint forward (5 m) to a cone and touch the top of it with the hand; 2) move laterally (2.5 m) without crossing the feet and legs and touch cone top with the left hand; 3) run laterally (5 m) and touch the cone top with the right hand; 4) move back laterally (2.5 m) and touch cone top with the left hand; and 5) run backwards (5 m) to starting line.</p> <p>Reina, Sarabia, García-Vaquero, Yanci, &amp; Campayo (2016)</p>	Stopwatch or time gates  Cones (height 40 cm)	Time (s)
Illinois Agility Test	<p>The length of the course is 10 meters and the width (distance between the start and finish points) is 5 meters. Four cones are used to mark the start, finish and the two turning points. Another four cones are placed down the centre an equal distance apart. Each cone in the centre is spaced 3.3 meters apart. On the 'Go' command the stopwatch is started, and the player runs around the course in the direction indicated, without knocking the cones over, to the finish line, at which point the timing is stopped. This test is also performed dribbling the ball.</p> <p>Reina, Sarabia, Caballero, &amp; Yanci (2017)</p>	Stopwatch or time gates  Cones  Ball	Time (s)
505 Agility Test	<p>The 505 test is designed to measure the player's change of direction ability. The Athlete, after running 10 m, sprints forward to a line 5 m ahead and pivots 180° before returning to the start position. Time measurement starts and finishes when the Athlete crosses the line between cones. The test can be performed with changes of direction on both sides and with and without ball.</p>	Stopwatch or time gates  Cones  Ball	Time (s)



## IV. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

### Section IV.1. CP-Football Profiles Structure

4.1. With the development of an evidence-based classification system for CP-Football from the basis of the CPISRA functional system (Figure 8), these Rules include a new structure of the Classes Profiles (Figure 9): organised by

4.1.1. Level of Impairment / Activity Limitation for the performance of fundamental football skills:

4.1.1.1. **1** = Severe Involvement;

4.1.1.2. **2** = Moderate Involvement; or

4.1.1.3. **3** = Minimal Involvement.

4.1.2. Eligible Impairment and/or affected limbs:

4.1.2.1. **A** = Bilateral Spasticity (also called, spastic diplegia);

4.1.2.2. **B** = Athetosis/Dystonia (Dyskinesia) or Ataxia; or

4.1.2.3. **C** = Unilateral Spasticity (also called spastic hemiplegia).

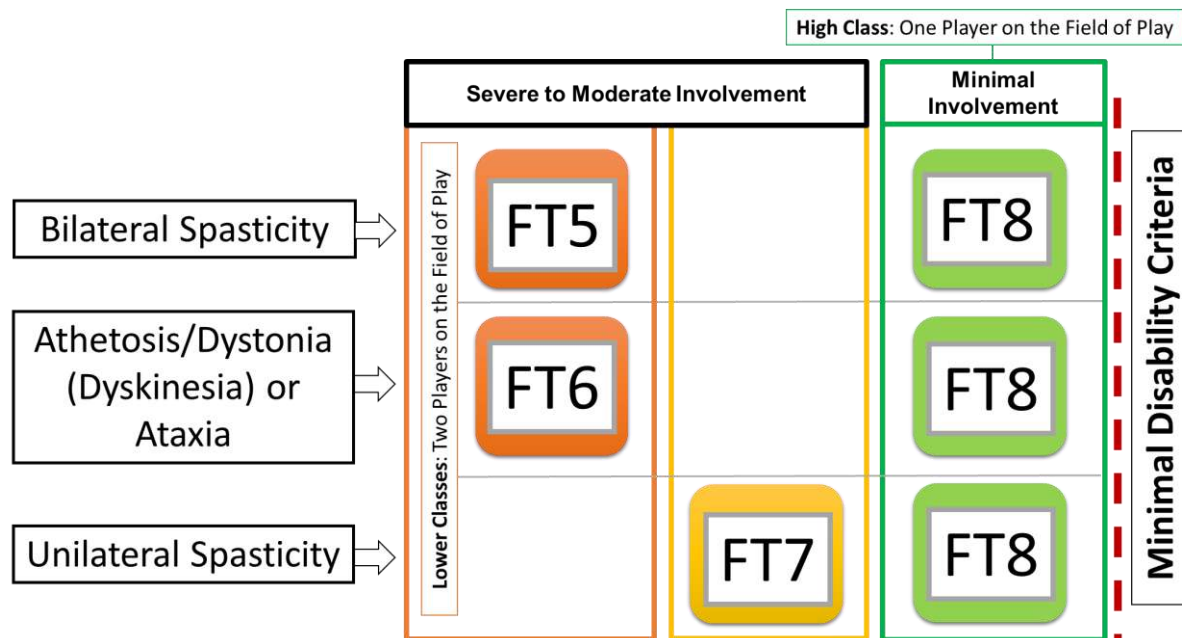


Figure 8. Structure of CP-Football Classification System according to CP-ISRA Profiles

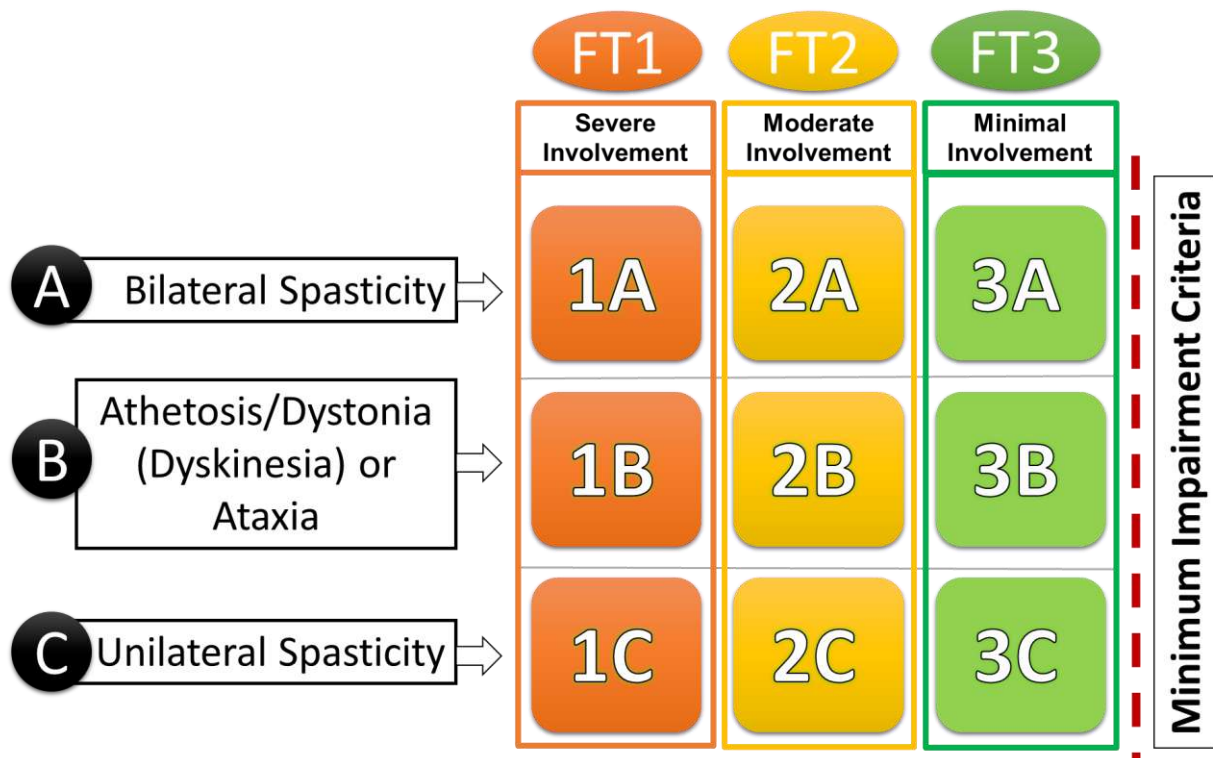


Figure 9. Structure of CP-Football Classification System in these Rules

4.2. The abbreviation for a CP-Football Class will be **FT**.

## Section IV.2. Reference Scores for Decision-Making

### Section IV.2.1. Spasticity Reference Scores for Decision-Making

4.3. Table 7 shows the spasticity scores of reference for decision-making and Class allocation for Profiles A (Diplegia) and Hemiplegia (C). Some special considerations are:

- 4.3.1. Hamstrings have to be tested with 90° hip-flexion, and angle of the catch will be considered as follows:
  - 4.3.1.1. FT2: angle of catch  $\geq 70^\circ$
  - 4.3.1.2. FT3: angle of catch  $< 70^\circ$
- 4.3.2. When classifiers find spasticity in quadriceps and/or hip flexors, players can get a lower class after assessing their functionality. These muscles are not taken into account because of poor interrater reliability for testing (Clopton, Dutton, Featherston, Grigsby, Mobley, & Melvin, 2005).
- 4.3.3. When classifiers find poor SVMC (isolated movements) in the lower limb, players may get a lower class after assessing their functionality.



Table 7. Reference Spasticity Scores in lower limbs for Classes FT1, FT2 and FT3 in the Profiles A and C

	<b>Calf Muscles</b>	<b>Hamstrings</b>	<b>Adductors</b>
<b>FT1 – A/C</b>	MAS Grade 2 – 3; and	MAS Grade 2; or	MAS Grade 2
<b>FT2 – A/C</b>	MAS Grade 2 – 3; and	MAS Grade 1+; or	MAS Grade 1+
	MAS Grade 3	--	--
<b>FT3 – A/C</b>	MAS Grade 2; or	MAS Grade 2; or	MAS Grade 2
	MAS Grade 1+ in at least two of the (group) muscles <b>of the same leg</b>		
<b>FT3 – C</b>	MAS 1+ in only one (group) muscle <b>plus</b> MAS Grade 3 in biceps and/or triceps and/or shoulder muscles (No MIC for wrist or supination/pronation)		

### Section IV.2.2. Athetosis/Dystonia (Dyskinesia) Reference Scores for Decision-Making

NOTE: For this purpose, a new reliable protocol should be developed considering DIS (Section III.2)

### Section IV.2.3. Ataxia Reference Scores for Decision-Making

4.4. For guidance purposes, Table 8 shows Reference Scores of the SARA Scale to help Classifiers for Class allocation for Athletes with this Eligible Impairment:

Table 8. SARA Reference Scores for Classes FT1, FT2 and FT3 in the Profile B

<b>Gait</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Stance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Finger chase</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>				
<b>Nose-finger chase</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>				
<b>Fast alternating hand movement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>				
<b>Heel-shin slide</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>				
			<b>NE</b>	<b>FT3</b>	<b>FT2</b>	<b>FT1</b>			



### Section 4.2.4. Coordination and Sport-Specific Test Reference Scores for Decision-Making

4.5. For guidance purposes, Table 9 shows the most recommended tests to evaluate differences in degrees of activity limitation in Athletes with Spastic Diplegia (Class A), Athetosis/Dystonia (Dyskinesia) and/or Ataxia (Class B), Spastic Hemiplegia (Class C) and Minimal Impairment Criteria (Campayo-Piernas & Reina, 2016). Table 9 also includes some tests (in dark blue colour) with a high percentage of agreement provided by international classifiers (Reina, Sarabia, Sánchez, Beckman, Connick, & Tweedy, 2015).<sup>8</sup>

Table 9. Usefulness of proposed test for decision-making

Test	A	B	C	MIC
Rapid Heel-Toe Placement			ND	
Split Jumps				
Side Stepping				
Tandem Walk (5 m)				
Triple Hop for Distance			ND	
4 Bounds for Distance				
Standing Broad Jump				
Sprint			With Ball	With Ball
Modified Agility Test				
Illinois Agility Test			With Ball	

ND = Non-Dominant leg; d = effect size

p < 0.05, d > 0.8

4.6. ONLY for guidance purposes, Table 10 shows Reference Scores<sup>9</sup> of the tests included in Table 9 regarding the Level of Impairment (6.10.2) and for Minimal Impairment Criteria.

<sup>8</sup> AGITOS Foundation Project GSP14-CPISRA01-IF, "Improving reliability and validity of current classification methods for athletes in classes FT5-FT8 and T35-T38."

<sup>9</sup> These Scores can be updated in the future after the implementation of these Rules.



Table 10. Reference Scores for Coordination and Sport-Specific tests for Classes FT1, FT2, FT3 and MIC

Test	FT1	FT2	FT3	MIC
Rapid Heel-Toe Placement (s)	6.93 >	5.86	< 5.39	< 4.61
Split Jumps (s)	22.65 >	19.61	< 17.83	< 16.71
Side Stepping (s)	10.98 >	9.82	< 8.93	< 8.49
Tandem Walk (5m) (s)	16.95 >	13.98	< 11.46	< 10.45
Triple Hop for Distance <sup>10</sup> (m)	1.69 >	2.08	< 2.70	> 3.12
4 Bounds for Distance <sup>11</sup> (m)	3.35 >	3.78	< 4.16	> 4.62
Standing Broad Jump <sup>11</sup> (m)	0.87 >	0.95	< 1.04	> 1.17
Sprint <sup>11</sup> without Ball (s)	2.24 >	2.15	< 2.06	< 1.95
Sprint <sup>12</sup> with Ball (s)	2.79 >	2.56	< 2.42	< 2.19
Modified Agility Test (s)	7.98 >	7.50	< 7.21	< 6.39
Illinois Agility Test without Ball (s)	18.74 >	18.26	< 17.39	< 16.32
Illinois Agility Test with Ball (s)	26.94 >	25.58	< 23.94	< 22.29

### Section IV.3. Qualitative Description of CP-Football Profiles

- 4.7. During Technical Assessment and Observation in Competition, the following features could be observed to varying degrees in Profiles A (Bilateral Spasticity), B (Athetosis/Dystonia or Ataxia) and C (Unilateral Spasticity). However, all are not required to be present.
- 4.8. For this purpose, the observation categories described by Reina et al. (2015) will be used (Article 3.23.3):
- 4.8.1. *Coordination*, defined as the ability to voluntarily execute fluid, accurate movements rapidly.
  - 4.8.2. *Balance*, defined as the ability to maintain the line of gravity (vertical line from the centre of mass) of a body within the base of support with minimal postural sway.
  - 4.8.3. *Symmetry*, defined as the correspondence and/or movement similarity on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.
  - 4.8.4. *The range of movement (ROM)*, defined as the full movement or optimal potential of a joint, usually its range of flexion and extension; includes follow-through after a pass or kick.

<sup>10</sup> Normalized distance to Athlete's Height.

<sup>11</sup> Reference time at 25 m of a 40 m straight Sprint.



- 4.8.5. *Performance*, activity limitation observed during the execution of a particular task or football skill.

### **Section IV.3.1. Profile A or Bilateral Spasticity**

4.9. This profile includes:

- 4.9.1. Bilateral Spasticity or Diplegia, either symmetric or asymmetric;
- 4.9.2. Double hemiplegia<sup>12</sup> with involvement on both sides with lower limbs more affected than upper extremities; or
- 4.9.3. Athletes with dystonia (with spasticity) where the lower limbs are more affected than upper extremities.

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

4.10. The observation features for Athletes with Profile A or Bilateral Spasticity can be, but are not limited to:

#### 4.10.1. *Coordination*

- The Athlete shows coordination problems changing direction toward both sides.
- Activity limitation increases when fatigue appears.
- The Athlete shows awkwardness in movement quality.
- The Athlete shows difficulty coordinating upper and/or lower limbs (dissociation).

#### 4.10.2. *Balance*

- Balance problems can be observed, especially during landing, hopping and/or performing with the ball.
- Consequences of limited balance are (i.e. compensatory strategies): trunk sway, lowering centre of gravity (also due to spastic flexion patterns in the legs), wider support base, shifting weight from foot to foot or trunk flexion (lateral—when there is asymmetric bilateral spasticity—or forward)

#### 4.10.3. *Range of Movement (ROM)*

- Main ROM limitations can be observed:
  - Limited ROM in ankles, limiting dorsi- and/or plantar/flexion.
  - Limited ROM in hips, which usually leads to trunk rotation to compensate.

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<sup>12</sup> It is not usual but is possible in cases of two concussions at different moments.



- Limited ROM in knees (extension).

#### 4.10.4. *Performance*

- Internal rotation of femurs (flexion and adduction of hips).
- Clonus in the ankle during landing.
- Easier to gallop than step.
- Reduced stride length (ROM and asymmetry).
- Difficulty keeping movement rhythmic and fluent (especially backwards).
- Limited push-off and/or power in jumps.
- Short flight phases.
- Problems with movement control (accuracy and/or fluency).
- Limited swing (preparation) and follow-through (recovery) after a kick or pass.
- Reduced ability for change of direction or pivots towards both sides, impacting on Player's ability in offensive or defensive actions.

### **Section IV.3.2 – Profile B or Athetosis/Dystonia (Dyskinesia) or Ataxia**

#### 4.11. This profile includes:

- 4.11.1. Chorea, Athetosis, Dystonia, Ataxia or Mixed Cerebral Palsy or related neurological conditions. Spasticity may be observed, but coordination impairment due to some of the previous Underlying Health Conditions is the key feature.
- 4.11.2. Involvement in all four limbs: coordination of the whole body and motor control.
- 4.11.3. Athletes with dystonia belong to this profile unless the impairment is minimal, on on just one side of the body (should be profile C), or does not meet MIC.
- 4.11.4. If the athlete has pure athetosis, only fluctuating muscle tone can be found, but no spasticity or a catch. If, however, a 'catch' is found, it is often found inconsistently and/or at varying points in the range of motion. Athletes with only Ataxia (not a mixed picture with spasticity) do not show a 'catch'.

#### 4.12. The observation features for Athletes with Profile B with Athetosis/Dystonia (Dystonia) or Ataxia include, but are not limited to:

##### 4.12.1. *Coordination*

- Difficult coordination between/among upper/lower limbs.
- Awkwardness in movement quality.
- Possible presence of Dystonia in arm(s) and/or posture.



- Although straight running might be fluent and coordinated, changes in pacing and/or direction is challenged.
- Problems with spatial awareness.
- Motor planning/tracking limitations (e.g. timing with regards to the ball).

#### 4.12.2. *Balance*

- Balance problems should be in static and dynamic (e.g. small game situation or against an opponent) situations and more challenging in backward actions, landing (after jumping) and body contact with opponents.
- Some compensatory strategies are: lowering centre of gravity, trunk sway, hips forward to increase stability, widening gait, or compensatory actions using arms.

#### 4.12.3. *ROM*

- Some ROM limitations could be present depending on Underlying Health Condition.

#### 4.12.4. *Performance*

- Difficulty with changing directions, especially when sudden stops or speed change required.
- Challenge to keep rhythm and poor movement fluency, but not when running straight.
- Associated involuntary movements.
- Accuracy problems: e.g. tracking, trapping and kicking/passing the ball.
- Altered reaction time.
- Short steps, long strides.
- Motor planning/tracking challenges.
- Problems with spatial awareness.

### **Section IV.3.3 – Profile C or Unilateral Spasticity**

4.13. This profile includes:

#### 4.13.1. Unilateral Spasticity (Hemiplegia):

4.13.1.1. with clear-to-minimal asymmetry; and

4.13.1.2. good-to-normal functional ability on the non-affected side of the body.



4.13.2. The affected arm and shoulder will have increased spasticity and decreased range of motion. There are many spasticity patterns in the arm that may fit into this profile.

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

4.14. The observation features for Athletes with Profile C or Unilateral Spastic include, but are not limited to:

4.14.1. *Coordination*

- Problems in motor control on the same side of the body in both upper and lower limbs.
- Flexed posture and associated reactions or posture in hands.
- Difficulty coordinating upper and/or lower limbs, e.g.: asymmetrical arm swing.

4.14.2. *Balance*

- Problems to keep balance on the affected side.
- Some consequences of limited balance are: increased weight bearing on unaffected side, using upper limbs (e.g. fixing arms), difference in stride length, or trunk flexion (lateral or forward).

4.14.3. *ROM*

- Clearly on affected side, particularly in following joints:
  - Ankles (most affected): problems with plantar- and dorsiflexion.
  - Hips: trunk rotation to compensate.
  - Knee: hyperextension or flexion contracture.
  - Arm: wrist, elbow and or shoulder spasticity limits its contribution to movement (e.g. body asymmetry)

4.14.4. *Asymmetry*

- Clear asymmetry in this profile between both sides: upper and lower limbs, affecting performance.
- Possible presence of paretic arm.

4.14.5. *Performance*

- Affected strength in ankle and foot.
- Dragging foot.
- Lower speed and power.



- Worse fluency of movements.
- Use of tip-toes due to increased calf tone.
- Stride length shorter (backwards and sideways) due to limited hip extension and/or knee extension.
- Affected ball skills.
- Limited push-off.
- Reduced arm swing.
- Difference in gait pattern between both limbs.
- Difficulty with pivoting toward the paretic side.

#### **Section IV.4. Sport Classes**

4.14.6. Sport Class FT1 (Table 11)

4.14.7. Sport Class FT2 (Table 12)

4.14.8. Sport Class FT3 (Table 13)



Table 11. Profiles description for sport class FT1.

FT1	Profile A	Profile B	Profile C
<p><b>General Features</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1.</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Patterns 2, 3, 4 or 5.</li> <li>- Clear Diplegic gait pattern, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal rotation of the lower limbs, including equinus foot.</li> <li>- Poor dorsiflexion of the ankles.</li> <li>- Involvement of both legs which may require orthotics/splints for walking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Spasticity impacts on hips, knees and ankles movement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulties in propulsion up and landing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Upper limbs are used to compensate for impaired ROM due to spasticity in lower limbs.</li> <li>- It might be possible to observe clonus on landing or during repetitive/fast movements.</li> <li>- During the game, exertion will increase tone and decrease function.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty with coordination between upper/lower limbs, and dynamic general coordination.</li> <li>- Awkwardness in movement quality. Strong involuntary movements.</li> <li>- It is possible to observe dystonia in arm(s) and posture.</li> <li>- Problems with spatial awareness.</li> <li>- Motor planning/tracking limitations.</li> <li>- Problems selecting hip muscles/dissociation.</li> <li>- Can show asymmetry in the lower limbs, especially in mixed pictures with spasticity.</li> <li>- In athetoid athletes, difficulties with the production of speech and strong uncontrolled facial movements.</li> <li>- Balance problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1.</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Patterns 3, 4 or 5. Marked hemi-gait pattern with hyperextension of the knee or flexed knee in mid-stance phase.</li> <li>- Internal rotation of the affected lower limb, including equinus foot without the capability for heel contact.</li> <li>- It is common to observe an ankle contracture, with poor or no ankle dorsiflexion.</li> <li>- May require an orthotics/splint for walking (e.g. anti-equinus device).</li> <li>- Spasticity impacts hip, knee and ankle of the affected side, showing clear asymmetries (e.g. difficulties or inability to raise up or land with the affected leg).</li> <li>- The arm of the affected side is usually affected with an overall spasticity grade 3 or above (i.e. strong flexed posturing).</li> <li>- It might be possible to observe clonus after landing or during repetitive/fast movements on the affected leg.</li> <li>- During a game, exertion will increase tone and decrease functional control.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Balance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full dorsi-flexion usually is not possible, being unable to make heel contact on the field.</li> <li>- Clear problems with dynamic balance, especially with the increase in speed or need for a sudden stop.</li> <li>- Landing after the jump or in hopping is restricted.</li> <li>- See limited balance consequences in 6.17.2.</li> <li>- Although static balance might be good-to-normal, Classifiers must consider the dynamic nature of the game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continual adjustments used to stabilize.</li> <li>- Balance problems in static and dynamic situations. More challenging in backward actions.</li> <li>- The athlete can show compensatory strategies such as: lowering centre of gravity, trunk sway, hips forward to increase stability, widening gait or base of support (especially in ataxia), or compensatory action using arms.</li> <li>- The Athlete has delayed saving/protective reactions when falling or losing balance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dorsi-flexion usually is not possible, being unable to make contact heel on the field, limiting balance on the affected leg.</li> <li>- Clear problems with dynamic balance, especially with speed increases or required sudden stops, requiring a wider area or using the non-affected leg.</li> <li>- Landing after the jump or on hopping is constrained, showing a clear asymmetry.</li> <li>- One-leg balance on affected leg is not possible or weak.</li> <li>- See compensatory strategies (6.21.2).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Running</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spasticity in muscles involving hip movement limits running stride.</li> <li>- Presence of 'scissor' running pattern, with hip and knee in flexion, and hip adduction and internal rotation.</li> <li>- It is possible to observe some asymmetry between lower limbs.</li> <li>- Limited foot clearance.</li> <li>- Running backwards and sidestepping is constrained, with limited heel contact on the ground.</li> <li>- Stride length is reduced and/or decreased with exertion or fatigue.</li> <li>- Difficulty keeping rhythm/fluency (especially backwards) in movements.</li> <li>- Usually runs only short distances due to involvement in both lower limbs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluency of coordination changes when running, requiring many (preparation) steps for stopping.</li> <li>- The player may show short steps, but long strides, with better running mechanics in straight sprints (but difficulties in stopping or COD). It is possible to observe a 'flight' while running, i.e. both feet off the ground at the same time.</li> <li>- Asymmetric swing of the upper limbs, or arms held close to the body for stabilization.</li> <li>- May run with trunk forward to improve the centre of gravity stabilization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walk/run with a limp clearly noticeable due to spasticity in the lower limb. Lacks full extension of hip and knee, limiting knee raise.</li> <li>- Spasticity limits running stride, showing a clear asymmetry in run mechanics.</li> <li>- Stride length is reduced and/or decreased with exertion or fatigue.</li> <li>- Incomplete plantigrade with the affected leg.</li> <li>- Running backwards is constrained due to non-heel contact with the affected leg and the impact of asymmetry in coordination.</li> <li>- Difficulty keeping movement's rhythm/fluency, losing coordination in fast-repetitive movements.</li> <li>- Poor or no arm swing of the affected side, using the trunk to compensate for this limitation.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Change of Direction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spasticity in muscles involving hip movement limits COD, both speed and amplitude.</li> <li>- Short steps forward, backwards and both sides.</li> <li>- The athlete usually uses the trunk for COD or to accelerate movements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Much difficulty in performing a fast change of direction, with limited balance when stopping or pivoting.</li> <li>- Player requires additional steps for body stabilization or control.</li> <li>- Limited reaction responses.</li> <li>- Reduced trunk rotation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spasticity limits or impedes COD towards the affected side.</li> <li>- Movements towards affected side are very poor.</li> <li>- Trunk rotation is limited towards the affected side.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jumping</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor power in jumps.</li> <li>- Balance is constrained in landing, and player shows limitations to link with another action (e.g. tackle, sprint)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take-off is affected and coordination is limited for heading.</li> <li>- Landing is unstable.</li> <li>- Reduced hip and ankle extension present during take-off: poor push-off, or push from the trunk.</li> <li>- Explosive movements; hopping and vertical jumps are difficult to perform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear asymmetry in jumps, performing take-off and landing only with the non-affected leg.</li> <li>- Balance is severely impaired on the affected side.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Football Skills and Performance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed in preparation, execution and recovery.</li> <li>- Poor push-off</li> <li>- Preparation and follow-through of a kick and/or pass is clearly impaired. Thus, they will have problems with long passing and/or fast/strong shots.</li> <li>- Limited skills in dribbling the ball, especially against opponents.</li> <li>- Difficulties to kick or pass using the internal side of the feet.</li> <li>- Trapping may be difficult.</li> <li>- Balance during a throw-in may be impaired.</li> <li>- In goalkeepers, they are restricted in moving fast to either side and to get up fast from the ground.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time-consuming to prepare execution of football skills: impact in preparation, action and recovery.</li> <li>- Poor movement fluency and challenge to keep rhythm. Lack of propulsion/push-off.</li> <li>- Associated and involuntary movements impact the accuracy of football skills. Difficulty to achieve speed.</li> <li>- Drive and control of the ball are limited because of involuntary movements. Slow speed.</li> <li>- Passing is usually imprecise, especially when the ball is kicked without a previous control. Accuracy when planting the non-passing foot may be inconsistent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed in preparation, execution and recovery.</li> <li>- Uses the non-impaired leg to prepare the body for the best position for passing, kicking or control of the ball.</li> <li>- Limited follow-through movements (kick and/or pass) because of the balance limitations on the affected side while performing. Thus, the player will have problems with long passing and/or fast/strong shots.</li> <li>- Only uses the non-affected leg with the ball. In preparation for kicking, rotation of the hip-trunk is seen. Requires time to perform skills.</li> <li>- Difficulties to kick or pass with the medial side of feet, but able to do with hip rotation.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Weakness in control of body posture during contact with an opponent or during defensive skills.</li><li>- Offensive and defensive football skills are very restricted due to the impact of involuntary movements or lack of motor control.</li><li>- Poor follow-through with arms.</li><li>- Severe problems controlling the ball in small spaces or against opponents (e.g. inside the box). Requires a wide area to dribble around or to avoid an opponent.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Limited skills when dribbling the ball, especially against opponents.</li><li>- Does not use the impaired arm in defensive skills against the opponent.</li><li>- The execution of a throw-in will be rolling the ball with the non-affected arm.</li><li>- In goalkeepers, sidestepping will be much more compromised towards the affected side.</li></ul>
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Table 12. Profiles description for sport class FT2.

FT2	Profile A	Profile B	Profile C
<b>General Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1.</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Patterns 1, 2 or 3.</li> <li>- Internal rotation of the lower limbs is not necessarily seen:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The hips look free.</li> <li>- Flexed knees are not necessarily seen.</li> <li>- Limitations in plantar- and dorsiflexion are observed.</li> <li>- Equinus can be observed in feet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Hips-trunk dissociation is possible, allowing better mechanics for jumping and COD.</li> <li>- Fluency to coordinate repetitive movements (e.g. splits jumps) is constrained.</li> <li>- Reduced plantar- and dorsiflexion, and knee extension is usually compensated with wider pelvis rotation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global compromise (coordination difficulty) is easily seen.</li> <li>- Some asymmetry is seen but it is not as strong as coordination problems.</li> <li>- Fluency problems and/or rhythm loss.</li> <li>- Balance is constrained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1.</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Patterns 1, 2 or 3. (Hyper)extension of the knee in mid-stance phase.</li> <li>- A key consideration between FT1 v FT2 is the level of spasticity in hip adductors.</li> <li>- More distal spasticity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hip looks free.</li> <li>- Flexed knees are not necessarily seen.</li> <li>- Limitation in plantar- and dorsi- flexion is observed.</li> <li>- Equinus can be observed in feet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Fluency to coordinate repetitive movements (e.g. splits jumps) is restricted due to asymmetry impact.</li> <li>- The arm on the impaired side is usually affected with an overall spasticity grade 2 or above (i.e. paretic posture) and may impact overall coordination.</li> <li>- Reduced accuracy in tasks involving affected leg (e.g. rapid heel-toe) or evaluating selective motor control (i.e. require corrections).</li> </ul>
<b>Balance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Player will exhibit balance problems in fast movements such as dribbling against an opponent or during the performance of defensive skills.</li> <li>- Although static balance might be good-to-normal, Classifiers must consider the dynamic nature of the game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dynamic balance may be better than static balance.</li> <li>- The support base is usually wider than neutral position, lowering centre of gravity.</li> <li>- Passing/kicking accuracy may fluctuate because of difficulty with balance on the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Player will exhibit balance problems in fast movements such as dribbling around an opponent or during the performance of defensive skills when the balance is required on the affected side.</li> <li>- See compensatory strategies (6.21.2).</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some limited balance consequences (6.17.2) can be observed to compensate for the impact of spasticity in lower limbs.</li> </ul>	<p>stance leg and/or stability of the kicking leg at the ankle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requires body adjustments for stabilization after fast actions.</li> <li>- Trunk sways backwards to stabilize body when kicking a ball.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Running</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Because spasticity in hip muscles is lower, stride while running is larger than in FT1.</li> <li>- The asymmetry between lower limbs is minimal.</li> <li>- Incomplete foot contact on the ground can be observed while walking, running or pivoting.</li> <li>- Running backwards and side-stepping is constrained.</li> <li>- Stride length might be reduced and/or decreased with exertion or fatigue.</li> <li>- Length of the steps might be reduced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asymmetric swing of the upper limbs, but coordination of arms and legs is better than in FT1.</li> <li>- Some variation can be observed in strides amplitude and speed.</li> <li>- May run with trunk forward to improve the centre of gravity stabilization.</li> <li>- Arms may remain close to the body to reduce the impact of involuntary movements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Athlete who walks with a noticeable limp may appear to have a smoother stride when running but may not have a consistent heel strike.</li> <li>- Running may appear to be nearly symmetrical, however, due to the spasticity and limitations on the impaired side, there will be a difference in step length and stance time.</li> <li>- The paretic posture of the affected arm may limit the swing during fast straight sprints.</li> <li>- Dragging foot or flat steps is observed, or toe walking due to increased calf tone. Foot placement is affected by weakness in dorsiflexion muscles and/or over-activity in plantar flexor muscles.</li> <li>- Running backwards and side-stepping towards the affected side is constrained.</li> <li>- Stride length might be reduced and/or decreased with exertion or fatigue, due to limited knee and hip extension.</li> <li>- Stiff and jerky skip.</li> <li>- Higher use of trunk for propulsion.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Change of Direction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COD and pivoting might be fast, but limited because balance is affected by spasticity in calf muscles (incomplete or limited dorsi- plantar- flexion).</li> <li>- Able to COD towards both sides.</li> <li>- The player shows some hesitation in accelerations and requires more space to stop or achieve stability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs some short steps to stop, especially to stop fast runs or COD.</li> <li>- Satisfactory reaction time but acceleration hesitation and increased impact of momentum on deceleration are typically noted, and difficulties in stop-start movements may be observed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COD and pivoting might be towards both sides, but clear differences with regards to the affected side, limiting balance, speed, fluency and amplitude.</li> <li>- The player may require more steps or higher participation of the non-affected leg for stopping, accelerations and COD.</li> <li>- Some difficulties to achieve rotation around the body.</li> <li>- Difficulties to pivot and balance on the impaired side lead to pivots on the unaffected side and the player may kick with the affected foot.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jumping</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jump height is slightly limited, but landing is more affected.</li> <li>- The player has better control linking actions forward and to the dominant/both sides of the body, but still shows a limitation in fast transitions between skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landing can be limited, especially when landing on one leg.</li> <li>- Needs wide base in preparation, and arms clearly contribute to propulsion. Timing is compromised, especially for heading.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-impaired leg contributes much more to take-off and landing showing asymmetry due to the lack of contribution of the impaired side in the eccentric phase (flexion-extension): wider base of support with legs in abduction during landing.</li> <li>- The player will have difficulties to link with a new game action towards the affected side.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Football Skills and Performance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed more in preparation (e.g. short steps or lack of fluency), execution and recovery (keeping balance).</li> <li>- The player can use the trunk and/or arms effectively to get the best posture prior to execution of skills involving the ball.</li> <li>- Follow-through after a shot is slightly limited with less (or negligible) spasticity in adductors or hamstrings. Long passes or powerful shots can be cramped, requiring fast recovery of bilateral stance for stability.</li> <li>- Impairment affects more distal joints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination impairment can be observed in preparation (e.g. preparation steps), execution (e.g. keeping balance) and recovery (e.g. stability and fast responses to next actions) during the performance of football skills with speed and power.</li> <li>- Coordination and timing problems will be seen when tracking, trapping and kicking/passing the ball.</li> <li>- Loss of fluency and/or accuracy when players link several football actions or skills (e.g. control or drive the ball in small spaces or against fast opponents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed more in execution and recovery.</li> <li>- Slower performance because time-consuming movement control (e.g. gain balance)</li> <li>- Good and strong kick with the non-impaired leg and the impaired leg gives stability. However, hip control on the affected side is frequently variable affecting both passing and shooting power.</li> <li>- In preparation for kicking, some rotation of the hip/trunk is seen.</li> <li>- Follow-through after a shot is short to recover stability as soon as possible, or due to spasticity in the hamstrings.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- When dribbling the ball, prefers to keep close to the feet due to the restricted running mechanics and COD ability, or requires a wider area to control the ball.</li><li>- Able to kick both internal and external, especially without hip involvement.</li><li>- Goalkeeper might show some problem in side-stepping, walking backwards and landing after attempting to catch an aerial ball.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Athlete may have difficulty dribbling or controlling the ball when running, when requiring COD and against opponents.</li><li>- Requires more time to execute some skills, being a disadvantage against rapid opponents. Speed and accuracy of the long pass are usually affected. Incomplete follow-through.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Can stop the ball with the affected leg but kicks with the non-affected leg.</li><li>- Can use the paretic arm in defensive skills-against the opponent.</li><li>- Keeps the ball close to the body because player's preference is to use the non-affected leg. However, uses different techniques to achieve better quality when driving the ball, such as a tendency to use only one leg.</li><li>- Can contact the ball using both internal and external surface of feet.</li><li>- The affected side is weak in defensive actions.</li><li>- Kicking across the body (midline) is possible, but some balance problems may be observed.</li><li>- Goalkeeper still having problems in side-stepping but able to catch the ball with both hands, although some asymmetry is observed.</li></ul>
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Table 13. Profiles description for sport class FT3

FT3	Profile A	Profile B	Profile C
<p><b>General Features</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1. (MIC).</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Pattern 0 or 1.</li> <li>- No clear abnormal posture in lower limbs.</li> <li>- Hips and ankles with a minimal limitation: plantigrade is possible.</li> <li>- Active ROM limitations are observed in actions that require rapid plantar- and dorsiflexion.</li> <li>- Slight problems with control of fast movements (e.g. rapid heel-toe or tasks requiring specific selective motor control)</li> <li>- Athletes frequently have greater difficulty generating force against gravity than their non-disabled counterparts, creating difficulty in mastering elite football skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This Athlete may appear to have a near normal function when running, but the Athlete must demonstrate a limitation in function to Classifiers based on evidence of ataxia, athetosis or dystonic movements while performing on the field of play or in training.</li> <li>- The Athlete must have an evident impairment of function observed during classification and on the field of play.</li> <li>- Present mild coordination problems:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synchronizing arms with legs, although it does not have a big impact on performance.</li> <li>- Pivoting toward both sides.</li> <li>- Coordination problems increase when using the ball.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Minor movement fluency problems or rhythm loss.</li> <li>- Minor balance problems (i.e. when landing or with body challenges with opponents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- See Spasticity Scores in Section IV.2.1. (MIC)</li> <li>- Amsterdam Gait Pattern 1 or 2.</li> <li>- No evident hemi gait pattern; dorsiflexion of the ankle is seen in the initial contact or the stance phase.</li> <li>- No limitations for trunk-pelvis dissociation.</li> <li>- The Athlete may walk with a slight limp but runs more fluidly.</li> <li>- No clear abnormal posture in impaired lower limb: slight distal spasticity, hip and knee look free, and full foot contact on the ground is possible.</li> <li>- Active ROM limitations are observed in actions that require rapid plantar- and dorsiflexion.</li> <li>- Slight problems with control of fast movements (e.g. rapid heel-toe or requiring selective motor control), with minimal impact on the performance of football skills.</li> <li>- Athletes frequently have greater difficulty generating force against gravity than their non-impaired counterparts, creating difficulty in mastering regular football skills.</li> <li>- Asymmetry can be observed noting ankle posture while landing or fast COD, minimal knee raise, arms posture, or arms contribution to propulsion.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Balance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimal balance problems, especially during: landing, hopping or fast COD.</li> <li>- Some small consequences of limited balance are, but not limited to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Longer steps.</li> <li>- Trunk sway (small corrections to compensate for calf spasticity).</li> <li>- A slight postural drop of the centre of gravity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Slightly wider base of support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present with minimal balance problems, especially during: landing phases, hopping or performing with the ball.</li> <li>- Some compensatory strategies with upper limbs to improve stability, example: flexed arms close to the trunk.</li> <li>- Balance is affected in the heel-toe walk and single leg stance and/or hopping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimal balance problems, especially during: landing, hopping or fast COD involving the impaired side.</li> <li>- The impaired leg can give good stability to the performance of football skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Running</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Little or no obvious asymmetry is observed among lower limbs.</li> <li>- Minimal or no difference in stride length.</li> <li>- Slightly reduced stride moving backwards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulties going backwards, the centre of gravity may be lower. The movement to the sides show minimal/no problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This Athlete may appear to have a near normal function when running but must demonstrate a limitation in function to Classifiers based on evidence of spasticity.</li> <li>- Minimal asymmetry in stride length.</li> <li>- Good swing with both arms but better with the non-impaired side.</li> <li>- The minimal paretic pattern is seen walking backwards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Change of Direction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close to normal stride length.</li> <li>- COD and pivoting are fast.</li> <li>- COD in all directions without a clear restriction of skills performance.</li> <li>- Some problems can be observed in side-stepping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impairment must have a demonstrable impact on sport performance as seen by the Classification Panel such as difficulty stopping, starting, turning, or explosive movements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COD to all directions with only slight difficulties towards the impaired side.</li> <li>- The player can make rapid adjustments and react fast.</li> <li>- Some problems can be observed in side-stepping.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jumping</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor balance problems during landing.</li> <li>- Close to normal jump capacity but some limitations are observed in take-off and/or landing.</li> </ul>	<p>Minimal balance compromise can be observed when landing or take-off.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor balance problems during landing.</li> <li>- Close to normal jump capacity but some limitations are observed in take-off and/or landing on the impaired side.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Football Skills and Performance</b></p>	<p>Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed slightly in execution, and in recovery (e.g. keep balance or link with next action).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upper limbs can be used effectively for many football skills (e.g. defensive actions, swing for propulsion).</li> <li>- Slightly reduced power or speed in actions involving the ball (e.g. long pass or power shots can be impaired due to the requirements to balance on the supporting leg).</li> <li>- When attacking in and around the box, the player's impairment creates a slight but significant hesitation when compared to non-impaired/able-bodied regular players.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athletes frequently have greater difficulty generating force against gravity than their non-disabled counterparts, creating difficulty in mastering regular football skills, such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimal coordination impairment can be observed in execution (e.g. compensatory posture) and recovery of the performance of football skills with speed and power.</li> <li>- Slight problems with movement control and accuracy: i.e. pass or kick that requires fast responses such as passing without previous control of the ball.</li> <li>- Follow-through in a long pass or powerful shots can be slightly impaired.</li> <li>- Heading can be somewhat impaired in athletes with athetosis/chorea or ataxia and is only intermittently visible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>When attacking in and around the box, the player's impulse impairment creates a slight but significant hesitation when compared to non-impaired players.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitations in the performance of football skills can be observed slightly in execution, and in recovery (e.g. keep balance or link with next action).</li> <li>- Can drive and control the ball with both legs, uses inside and outside surfaces of the feet to control the ball. Can use both legs to dribble an opponent. However, it is common to see that most of the time a player chooses to use his/her dominant side.</li> <li>- Good and strong kick with the leg of the non-impaired side and also kicks well with the impaired leg (e.g. passing). Good-to-normal follow-through, although some difficulties for dissociation can be observed in maximal shots.</li> <li>- Can stop the ball with the impaired leg but prefers to kick with the dominant side most of the times.</li> <li>- The player may be able to pass or kick with both legs.</li> <li>- Could kick aerial balls.</li> <li>- In preparation for kicking, no real rotation of the hip- trunk is usually observed.</li> <li>- The arm of the impaired side can be used for many football skills (e.g. defensive actions, swing for propulsion).</li> <li>- Slightly reduced power or speed in actions involving the ball (e.g. long pass or power shots can be constrained because of the requirements for balance on the supporting leg).</li> <li>- When attacking in and around the box, the player's impairment creates a slight but significant hesitation when compared to non-impaired regular players: i.e. use of the dominant side.</li> <li>- Usually requires slightly more effort on one side.</li> </ul>
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## Non-Eligible Impairments and Non-Underlying Health Conditions

### V. Non-Eligible Impairment Types

#### Section V.1. Non-Eligible Impairments

**5.1. IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments** includes other eligible impairments for Paralympic sports, but they are not eligible impairments for CP-Football:

- 5.1.1. *Impaired Muscle Power.* Athletes have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete,<sup>13</sup> tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
- 5.1.2. *Impaired Passive Range of Movement.* Athletes have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilization or trauma affecting a joint (e.g. Erb's Palsy, orthopaedic issues).
- 5.1.3. *Limb Deficiency.* Athletes have a total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. traumatic amputation), illness (e.g. amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
- 5.1.4. *Leg Length Difference.* Athletes have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma.
- 5.1.5. *Short Stature.* Athletes have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction and osteogenesis imperfecta.
- 5.1.6. *Visual Impairment.* Athletes have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.
- 5.1.7. *Intellectual Impairment.* Athletes have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.

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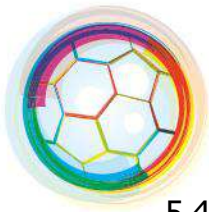
<sup>13</sup> An athlete with a neurological Underlying Health Condition (i.e. spasticity) might be eligible for CP-Football.



- 5.2. The following Impairments are examples of Impairments that are also Non-Eligible for CP-Football. However, an Athlete who is affected by an Eligible Impairment in combination with any of the Non-Eligible Impairments listed below may be Eligible for CP-Football, but Athletes affected only by the Impairments listed below are not eligible:
- 5.2.1. Developmental Coordination Disorders (i.e. developmental dyspraxia), defined as a chronic neurological disorder that can affect planning of movements and co-ordination as a result of brain messages not being accurately transmitted to the body, but is diagnosed in the absence of other neurological impairments like CP;
  - 5.2.2. Hearing impairments, including vestibular conditions that only impact balance;
  - 5.2.3. Autism Spectrum Disorders described as neurodevelopmental disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-5. APA, 2013);
  - 5.2.4. Impaired motor reflex functions;
  - 5.2.5. Low muscle tone;
  - 5.2.6. Hypermobility of joints or joint contractures;
  - 5.2.7. Joint instability, such as instability or dislocation of a joint;
  - 5.2.8. Impaired muscle endurance;
  - 5.2.9. Impaired cardiovascular functions;
  - 5.2.10. Impaired respiratory functions;
  - 5.2.11. Impaired metabolic functions; or
  - 5.2.12. Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

## **Section V.2. Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions**

- 5.3. A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment for CP-Football and are not Underlying Health Conditions. If an Athlete has both a Health Condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment and an Underlying Health Condition, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in CP-Football.
- 5.4. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed below) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in CP-Football:
- 5.4.1. One that primarily causes pain (e.g. myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome);
  - 5.4.2. One that primarily causes fatigue (e.g. chronic fatigue syndrome);
  - 5.4.3. One that primarily causes joint hypermobility or hypotonia (e.g. Ehlers-Danlos syndrome); or



- 5.4.4. One that is primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature (e.g. conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder).

### **Section V.3. Special Provisions**

- 5.5. It is possible that an Athlete is affected by more than one Health Condition. In cases where the Athlete has a Health Condition which will not lead to an Eligible Impairment, as well as a Health Condition which may lead to an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete may still be eligible for CP-Football.
- 5.6. If an Athlete has at the same time a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible-Impairment, the Athlete can be evaluated on the basis of the Eligible Impairment. However, the Non-Eligible Impairment must not influence the outcome of the evaluation.
- 5.7. If the Non-Eligible Impairment interferes with the assessment of an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete Evaluation cannot be completed.

### **Section V.4. Special Provisions for Sport Class Not Eligible**

- 5.8. All the provisions and procedures regarding Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) have been detailed in Article 18. In addition, and related to this Chapter:
- 5.8.1. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment has no right to any further evaluation or assessment by IFCPF, and the provisions for Athlete Evaluation relating to Sport Class Not Eligible do not apply.
- 5.8.2. If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, IFCPF may do likewise without the need for the process detailed in Section I (Appendix One) of these Rules.



## **APPENDIX Three**

### **Athlete Evaluation at Non-Competition Venue**

- 6.1. Athlete Evaluation may take place at a location, referred to as a Non-Competition Venue, and/or time other than at a Competition in order to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a Classification Panel and be allocated a Sport Class.
- 6.2. IFCPF may decide to have all or parts of the Athlete Evaluation done at a Competition venue for another sport or at any other location properly fitted to conduct all necessary parts of the process (i.e. sports science institutes) without compromising the standard of Athlete Evaluation. Rules for Certification by IFCPF for such 'other locations' include, but are not limited to:
  - 6.2.1. The Head of Classification or Level 3 International Classifiers must be involved.
  - 6.2.2. The place where the Athlete Evaluation will take place must have all the required equipment necessary for classification.
  - 6.2.3. A minimum of two (2) IFCPF International Classifiers (one of them a Level 3 International Classifier) must conduct the Athlete Evaluation.
  - 6.2.4. A certification of agreement for cooperation must be signed by IFCPF and 'other location' responsible (e.g. University or Research Centre administrator).
- 6.3. If IFCPF offers Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue, it must (on reasonable notice) advise the National Bodies and the National Paralympic Committees about the location of the Non-Competition Venue and the date upon which the Athlete Evaluation is to be conducted.
- 6.4. A non-refundable fee (amount pending) must be paid prior to the Athlete Evaluation being offered at Non-Competition Venue.
- 6.5. Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue must be undertaken in a manner that does not infringe these Rules.
- 6.6. IFCPF must ensure that there is an opportunity to make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by a Classification Panel at a Non-Competition Venue. A Protest Panel at the Non-Competition Venue must handle this Protest; failing this, the affected Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) and the Protest resolved at the earliest available opportunity (which may be at another Non-Competition Venue).
- 6.7. The allocation of a final Sport Class and Status will be subject to Observation in Competition Assessment, and this does not preclude IFCPF from making Athlete Evaluation available at a Non-Competition Venue. In that case, only Physical (3.22) and Technical Assessments (3.23) may be completed, and the Athlete will receive a Sport Class and Competition New Status (CNS) Tracking Code, completing the Athlete Evaluation (3.26) at the first available opportunity at an IFCPF-sanctioned Competition.



## ANNEX 1 - Athlete Evaluation Consent Form

1. I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process detailed in the IFCPF Classification Rulebook and administered by the designated IFCPF classification panel. I understand that this classification process will require me to participate in sport-like exercises and activities which will involve my being observed whilst competing. I understand that there is a risk of injury in participating in exercises and activities, and I certify that I am healthy enough to do so. I also agree that, if I am injured during the course of this classification process, I will hold IFCPF and the classifiers blameless.
  2. I understand that I have to comply with the requests made by the Classification Panel. This includes providing sufficient documentation so as to allow a Classification Panel to determine whether I meet the eligibility requirements for CP Football. I understand that if I fail to comply with any such request, then Athlete Evaluation may be suspended without a Sport Class being allocated to me.
  3. I understand that Athlete Evaluation requires me to give my best effort, and that any Intentional Misrepresentation of my skills, abilities and/or the degree of my impairment during Athlete Evaluation may result in my facing disciplinary action. I also understand that discrepancies between the performances I demonstrate during the classification process and that which I demonstrate during competition could also lead to my disqualification from IFCPF competitions.
  4. I understand that Athlete Evaluation is a judgment process, and I agree to abide by the judgment of the Classification Panel. If I do not agree with the decision of the Classification Panel, I agree to abide by the Protest process as defined in the Classification Rulebook.
  5. I agree to be videotaped and photographed during the Athlete Evaluation process, and I understand that this may include my activity on and off the field of play during the Competition.
  6. I agree and consent to IFCPF processing my personal data in any format, including my full name, country, date of birth, sport class and sport class status being published by IFCPF and shared with third parties such as Competition Organisers and the IFCPF master list.
- I wish to assist IFCPF in developing the Classification system and therefore allow my data to be collected during Athlete Evaluation and video/photo material recorded during training and competition to be used for research and educational purposes by IFCPF. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of the athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\* This is mandatory if the athlete is under eighteen (18) years of age.



## ANNEX 2 – Medical Diagnosis Form (MDF)

This form must be completed in English by a registered medical doctor (M.D.) or physiotherapist with specialization in the Athlete’s Health Condition, rehabilitation, or pediatric neurology (Article 8.5.2.1 of the Classification Rules).

The completed form with attached medical documentation must be sent to the Eligibility Assessment Committee, or a hard copy must be presented to Chief Classifier before the start of Athlete Evaluation. Athlete Evaluation will not be started if the MDF is not available for the Classification Panel.

Depending on the athlete’s health condition and impairment, additional medical information is to be attached to this form.

### Note

The measurement of impairment seen during athlete evaluation must correspond to the diagnosis indicated below (table for Medical Information). If the medical documentation is incomplete, IFCPF reserves the right to request further information. In the absence of such information, the athlete will not be able to proceed with Athlete Evaluation.

### Athlete Information

(to be prepopulated by the IFCPF Member)

<b>Family Name:</b>			
<b>Given Name/s:</b>			
<b>Gender:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	dd/mm/yyyy
<b>Country:</b>			
<b>Athlete’s Status</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> New (N) <input type="checkbox"/> Review (R) -including RFD-		

### Medical Information

*Note:* The list of medical diagnoses consists of examples and is not exhaustive.

Eligible Impairment (tick)	Name medical diagnosis relevant to impairment type (tick or add)	Documents to support the diagnosis (tick or add)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral Spasticity <input type="checkbox"/> Unilateral Spasticity <input type="checkbox"/> Dystonia <input type="checkbox"/> Athetosis <input type="checkbox"/> Ataxia	<input type="checkbox"/> Cerebral Palsy <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Report <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Ashworth Scale <input type="checkbox"/> DIS (Dyskinesia Impairment Scale) <input type="checkbox"/> SARA (Scale for Assessment and Rating of Ataxia) <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebral MRI or CT scan <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____



### Medical History

<b>Athlete's condition is:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stable	<input type="checkbox"/> Progressive	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluctuating	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent
<b>Age of onset:</b>	yyyy	<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital		
<b>Past treatments:</b>				
<b>Current treatments:</b>				
<b>Anticipated future treatments:</b>				

<b>Additional details on medical diagnosis (if needed):</b>

<b>Medications and reason for prescription:</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that the above information is accurate.			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Medical Speciality:</b>			
<b>Registration Number:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>Country:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Signature and Stamp:</b>	



## ANNEX 3 – Medical Review Request Form

### Who should make a Medical Review Request (MRR)?

An MRR is a process described in Article 31 of the IFCPF Classification Rules. An MRR needs to be submitted for an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Date Review (RFD) if his/her impairment and activity limitations are no longer consistent with his/her current sport class.

An MRR is to be submitted, if:

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

### Making an MRR

The MRR must be made by the Athlete's IFCPF Member and comprise:

- this MRR form completed legibly and in English;
- attached medical documentation that demonstrates that the athlete's impairment has changed since the last athlete evaluation the athlete attended; and
- a non-refundable fee of 200€. The MRR will not be processed until fee is received (bank transfer to IFCPF).

The MRR must be received by IFCPF at least 3 months before the next competition where the athlete intends to compete. Request is to be submitted by:

- E-mail: [aholland@ifcpf.com](mailto:aholland@ifcpf.com)
- Post: IFCPF, PO Box 738 - Worcester 6849 - South Africa

### Consequences of an MRR

If IFCPF, upon careful review, is convinced of a change in impaired or activity limitation, the athlete's sport class status will be changed to Review (R). Consequently, the athlete will be asked to undergo Athlete Evaluation again at the next opportunity. Please note that re-evaluation does not guarantee that the sport class of the athlete will change.

### Consequences of not making an MRR

Any failure to make an MRR in circumstances when IFCPF determines that (a) an MRR should have been made and that (b) the Athlete knew or should have known that an MRR should have been made may result in IFCPF treating the matter as being Intentional Misrepresentation on the part of the Athlete (see Article 32 of the IFCPF Classification Rules).



### IFCPF Member Details

<b>NPC/IF:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	

### IFCPF Details

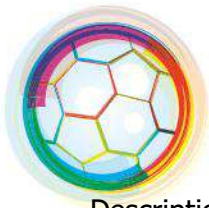
<b>Family Name:</b>			
<b>Given Name/s:</b>			
<b>Gender:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	dd/mm/yyyy
<b>Passport No.:</b>			
<b>Sport Class</b>		<b>Class Status:</b>	

### Next scheduled international competition (sanctioned by IFCPF)

<b>Competition name:</b>	
<b>Date (dd/mm/yyyy):</b>	
<b>Location (city and country):</b>	

**Details on the change in impairment:** to be completed by a health professional with relevant expertise – Intervention details (if applicable)

<b>Date of the intervention:</b>	
<b>Location where intervention was carried out:</b>	
<b>Description of intervention:</b>	
<b>Reason of intervention and expected outcomes:</b>	



Description of the change of impairment (in case of progressive or fluctuating impairments, injuries, etc.)

<b>Date of onset:</b>	
<b>Description of change of impairment:</b>	

Supporting documentation attached:

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**Health professional**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>I confirm that the above information is accurate.</b>			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Medical Speciality:</b>			
<b>Registration Number:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>Country:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Signature and Stamp:</b>	

**IFCPF Member Verification** by contact person submitting the MRR:

<b>NPC / IF:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Function:</b>			
<b>E-mail:</b>		<b>Signature and Stamp:</b>	



## ANNEX 4 – IFCPF Member Protest Form

Please PRINT in BLOCK LETTERS using a BLACK PEN

Event	
Name of Event:	
Date:	
Location:	
Protest submitted by	
Name:	
Title/Role:	
Country:	
Signature:	
Protest Information	
Protest <u>own Sport Class</u> must be no later than 60 minutes according to Article 21.2 of the IFCPF Classification Rules.	
Name of Athlete being protested:	
Country:	
Classification of Athlete:	
Clearly state reason for protest, only one protest per form. Use a separate sheet if necessary.	



**Official Use Only**

Protest fee received: <sup>1</sup>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature of the person receiving protest:	
Date and Time received:			
Protest Accepted:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If accepted, date and time for Protest Panel Evaluation	
	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If No - Reason for not accepting	
<b>Outcome of Protest</b>			
Sport Class Changed:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Sport Class Prior to Protest:			
Sport Class following Protest:			
Comments (use a separate sheet if necessary):			
<b>Signed by Protest Panel</b>			
<b>Classifier Name</b>		<b>Classifier Signature</b>	
Protest Decision explained to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Athlete being protested <input type="checkbox"/> Person submitting protest		
Date:		Time:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A copy of this form is to be given to the person making the protest and will constitute a receipt for any money retained.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copies of the protest are to be sent to the Chief Classifier.		
Chief Classifier Name:		Signature:	

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: the Protest Fee (150€) is non-refundable regardless of Protest outcome.



## ANNEX 5 – IFCPF Protest Request

Please PRINT in BLOCK LETTERS using a BLACK PEN

Event	
Name of Event:	
Date:	
Location:	
Request of Protest submitted by	
Name:	
Title/Role:	
Country:	
Signature and stamp:	
Protest Request Information	
<b>Please, take into consideration Article 23.1.2 of the IFCPF Classification Rules.</b>	
Event/Match:	
Athlete to whom the protest relates:	
Country:	
Classification of Athlete:	
Clearly state reason for protest, only one protest per form. Use a separate sheet if necessary.	



Supplementary documentation (i.e. video) <sup>14</sup>	
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**Official Use Only**

Protest Accepted:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Decision of Head of Classification (use a separate sheet if necessary)			
Date:		Time:	
HoC Name:		HoC Signature and stamp:	

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<sup>14</sup> Insert link/s to download from cloud services such as Google Drive, Dropbox or We Transfer.