



Intellectual Impairment Classifier Pathway

September 2018

International Paralympic Committee

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document outlines a pathway to become a classifier for Athletes with intellectual impairment (II) in the sports of Para Athletics and Para Swimming.
- 1.2 As outlined in the IPC [International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training](#), "Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of Classification Rules. Classifiers are the International Sport Federation [in this case World Para Athletics and World Para Swimming] officials responsible for Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of each sport, the Code and International Standards."

Further information about classifiers and their roles can be found in the [International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training](#), [World Para Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations](#) or [World Para Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations](#).

- 1.3 The pathway to become an International II Classifier and maintain certification include:
- Meeting the Entry Requirements;
 - Applying for an in-person introductory workshop;
 - Successfully completing the in-person introductory workshop;
 - Signing the Officials Engagement Agreement;
 - Demonstrating competencies to progress from a Trainee Classifier to International II Classifier; and
 - Continuous demonstration of II Classifier competencies required to maintain certification.

2 Entry Criteria

- 2.1 Candidate classifiers are required to meet the following entry criteria for the applications to be considered:
- 2.1.1 Complete the [Intro to Para Sport Online Module](#)
 - 2.1.2 Have qualifications as either one of the identified below:
 - 2.1.2.1 Clinical psychologists with a proven record of courses related to working with individuals with intellectual impairment;



- 2.1.2.2 Physicians with a proven record of academic qualification of neuropsychology testing;
- 2.1.2.3 Sport scientists with specific focus on athletics or swimming;
- 2.1.2.4 Individuals with academic qualification as physical educator, physiotherapist, physician with sport medicine qualification or human movement scientist; or
- 2.1.2.5 Individuals with extensive sport-specific background such as coaches or athletes.
- 2.1.3 Candidates must have strong interest in Para Athletics or Para Swimming.
- 2.1.4 Candidates must have very good English skills (both written and spoken).
- 2.1.5 Experience in sports for athletes with intellectual impairment is an asset.
- 2.2 Candidates should submit their application as described in section 5. Upon review World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming have discretion to choose which applications are successful.
- 2.3 Candidates are entitled to apply only for one sport – either Para Athletics or Para Swimming.

3 In-person Introductory Workshop

- 3.1 Upon successfully completing the application stage, candidates are required to attend an in-person introductory workshop based around 4 main pillars:
 - Fundamentals of evidence-based classification;
 - Fundamentals and practical execution of the generic cognitive test battery (theory and practice);
 - Fundamentals and practical execution of the sport-specific tests and protocols for observation in competition assessment (theory and practice); and
 - Communication, decision making, & administration (throughout the course).



- 3.2 The Workshop is interactive and includes theoretical and practical sessions. It is organised over the course of five (5) days and it includes an assessment of competencies at the end. This competency based assessment is conducted by completing a written and/or oral exam and by demonstrating competencies during the workshop.
- 3.3 The areas of competency assessment are identical to the 4 main pillars identified above and include:
- Understanding the purpose of classification and its principles, understanding the conceptual model of II classification;
 - Demonstrating understanding and the ability to conduct all components of the generic cognitive test battery;
 - Demonstrating understanding and the ability to conduct the technical and observation in competition assessments; and
 - Demonstrating understanding of the rules and procedures as well as the ability to apply the rules, demonstrating how to reach a decision and allocate a sport class, demonstrate the ability to properly communicate with the athletes and peers).
- 3.4 The Workshop is delivered by the IPC Classification Research and Development Centre for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment, IPC Management Staff and senior classifiers, jointly called the mentors. The mentors will be assessing candidate competencies and will provide one-on-one feedback.
- 3.5 Upon successful completion of the Workshop individuals shall be awarded with a World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming Trainee Classifier status.
- 3.6 In the case of demonstrating excellence in identified competencies during the Workshop (at the sole discretion of World Para Swimming or World Para Athletics and the workshop facilitators), candidate classifiers may be certified as International II Classifiers at the end of the Workshop.

4 Trainee Classifier Status

- 4.1 The Trainee Classifier is required to further demonstrate competencies while assisting in the delivery of athlete evaluation (conducting classification) at a competition. The Trainee Classifier is paired up with a classification panel and is being supervised by a mentor. This part of the training is fully or partially covered by the Trainee Classifier.



- 4.2 Subject to successfully meeting all the criteria and demonstrating competencies, the candidate will be certified as World Para Swimming or World Para Athletics International II Classifier and will be appointed to conduct athlete evaluation at the respective Para Athletics or Para Swimming competitions.
- 4.3 Candidates who do not demonstrate all competencies will remain a Trainee Classifier status and will be required to attend another classification opportunity as a Trainee Classifier, until they sufficiently demonstrate all competencies.

5 How to Apply

- 5.1 Interested candidates can express their interest of participation to Mrs. Andrea Herrera (IPC Sport Volunteer Workforce Professional Development Assistant) at andrea.herrera@paralympic.org. Candidates will then receive an application form.
- 5.2 World Para Athletics and World Para Swimming are organising International II Classifier Workshops based on the need to recruit II classifiers, and do not offer these workshops on a yearly basis.
- 5.3 Interested candidates will be informed about future Workshops as well as about their application status.
- 5.4 Candidates are advised to complete the Introduction to Para Sport online module prior to sending their application as this is a pre-requisite to proceed with Workshop attendance. This online module is free of charge and can be accessed from the [IPC Academy](https://www.ipc-academy.org/?view=login&academy=1&course=47) website using the following link: <https://www.ipc-academy.org/?view=login&academy=1&course=47>
- 5.5 Participation in the in-person Workshop will be subject to a fee of EUR 300. In addition, the candidate must pay a course fee, and cover the travel, meal and accommodation costs (if these are not covered by the Local Organising Committee or third party, such as a National Paralympic Committee). These costs can vary depending on the workshop location. World Para Athletics and World Para Swimming will advise all candidates about the anticipated costs for each Workshop.



6 International II Classifier Status

- 6.1 International II Classifiers for either World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming will have a privilege to join the team of international officials in Para Athletics or Para Swimming. They will be invited in a volunteer engagement capacity to conduct athlete evaluation at the relevant Para Athletics or Para Swimming competitions.
- 6.2 Once certified as an International II Classifier, the certification is valid for a period of four (4) years and comes with expected level of activity and engagement as an International II Classifier. This ideally includes attending one or more classification opportunities and competitions on a yearly basis. In addition, an individual will be invited to attend further online or in-person training to maintain the competencies and receive further support.
- 6.3 All World Para Athletics and World Para Swimming classifiers are required to sign an Officials Engagement Agreement that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the official, in this case the classifier, and the roles of the Para sport and the Local Organising Committee. This document will be shared with candidate classifiers prior to or during their participation in the workshop.



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7 Summary

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Mode of delivery	Online Classification Programme Online Course via IPC Academy - Introduction to Para Sport	International Classifier Workshop In-person Competency Assessed II Classifier Workshop	Trainee Classifier Programme In-competition Competency Assessment of Trainee Classifiers
Programme fees and expenses	Free	Programme fee of EUR 300, plus travel, accommodation and meals*	Travel, accommodation and meals**
Outcome upon successful completion	Certification of online programme completion (prerequisite to proceed, jointly with meeting other entry criteria)	World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming Trainee Classifier Certification	World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming International II Classifier Certification

* Participants generally must cover their own travel, accommodation, meals and pay the registration fee for the programme.

** IPC Swimming will assign Trainee Classifiers to a Classification Panel with whom they will assess athletes under the supervision of a mentor. Generally, the Trainee Classifier will need to cover their travel, accommodation and meals, unless otherwise agreed by the candidate and World Para Athletics or World Para Swimming. The respective Para sport will update the Trainee Classifiers about the options for attending classification opportunities in competition.

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