

# IPC ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY CLASSIFICATION REGULATIONS AND SPORT PROFILES

Version October 2010

## 1. Introduction to Classification

### 1.1 Governance

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) acts as the International Federation for the Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey. It is responsible for, amongst other things, organizing International Competitions and drawing up Rules and Regulations relevant to the Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey, and ensuring that they are followed. IPC carries out its responsibilities as International Federation under the name “IPC Ice Sledge Hockey”, and the term “IPC Ice Sledge Hockey” should therefore be read in these Classification Regulations as being equivalent to IPC.

IPC has designated these Classification Regulations as being part of the sport rules of Ice Sledge Hockey.

### 1.2 Structure of Classification Regulations

- 1.2.1 The Classification Regulations contained in this document provide a framework within which the process of Classification may take place. Classification is undertaken so that Athletes can be designated a Sport Class (which groups Athletes together in Competition) and allocated a Sport Class Status (which indicates when Athletes should be evaluated and how their Sport Class may be challenged).
- 1.2.2 The allocation to an Athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a physical and technical assessment of the Athlete. These processes are explained in these Classification Regulations.
- 1.2.3 A Sport Profile explains how an Athlete may be considered eligible to compete within a particular Sport Class. A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete if an Athlete satisfies the requirements of the “Sport Profile” for that Sport Class.



- 1.2.4** The Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes that comprise the sport of Ice Sledge Hockey are set out in Appendix One to these Classification Regulations.

### **1.3 Purpose of Classification Regulations**

- 1.3.1** The term “Classification”, as used in these rules, refers to the process by which Athletes are assessed by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in the Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey. It is intended to provide a framework for fair Competition and to ensure that the strategies, skills and talent of Athletes and teams determine competitive success. Classification is undertaken to both ensure that a relevant level of impairment is present in an Athlete, and that that impairment has a demonstrable impact upon sport performance.

- 1.3.2** The IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Sport Profiles explain how an Athlete may be eligible to compete in the Sport of IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.

### **1.4 IPC Classification Code**

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey has implemented these Classification Regulations in compliance with the IPC Classification Code (the IPC Code). In the event that there is any inconsistency between any provisions of these Classification Regulations and the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in “the IPC Code” shall prevail.

### **1.5 Definitions**

A glossary of defined terms (which generally appears in capital letters in these rules) is included within these Classification Regulations, although certain terms are defined in the body of these Classification Regulations.



## 2. Classifiers

### 2.1 Classification Personnel

- 2.1.1 The IPC Classification Code and IPC Ice Sledge Hockey recognize Classifiers as Games Officials.
- 2.1.2 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey should appoint the following personnel. Each will have a key role in the administration, organization and execution of Classification for IPC Ice Sledge Hockey:

#### **Head of Classification**

The Head of Classification will be the person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for IPC Ice Sledge Hockey. In the absence of an individual acting as Head of Classification, the role of Head of Classification may be fulfilled by a person or group of persons designated as such by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey. In such instances the references in these regulations to Head of Classification shall be deemed to include such person or group of persons.

#### **Classifier**

A Classifier will be a person appointed and certified by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel) for International Competition.

#### **Chief Classifier**

A Chief Classifier will be a Classifier appointed for a specific IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Competition, responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at that competition. The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to, liaising with Organizing Committees and teams before a competition to identify and notify Athletes who require Athlete Evaluation; liaising with Organizing Committees before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers; supervising Classifiers to ensure that Classification Regulations are applied



appropriately during a specific Competition; and supervising Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels.

**2.1.3** IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Classifiers should be qualified in one or more of the following disciplines:

**Medical:** a doctor who has experience in dealing with people with the impairments and Activity Limitations described in the Sport Profiles; or

**Physiotherapist:** a physiotherapist (or practitioner from a related discipline) trained to work with individuals with the impairments and Activity Limitations described in the Sport Profiles.

**2.2 Classifiers – Levels and Duties**

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey categorizes its Classifiers as follows:

**2.2.1 Trainee** - An individual who is being trained by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier. A Trainee cannot be a member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The duties of the Trainee may include participation in and observation of the classification process to become familiar with the Classification Regulations, developing competencies and proficiencies relevant to Athlete Evaluation, assistance in research, and attending classification meetings at Competitions. A Trainee Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

**Level 1 - International Classifier** – a Classifier who has successfully completed IPC Ice Sledge Hockey training and has been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct. The duties of a Level 1 Classifier may include, but are not limited to: being part of a classification panel at IPC Ice Sledge Hockey sanctioned Events; being part of a Protest Panel at IPC Ice Sledge Hockey sanctioned Events; attending classification meetings at Competitions; and assisting in classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification.



**Level 2 – Senior Classifier** - a Senior Classifier acts in a leadership capacity at Competitions and reports to the Chief Classifier. Senior Classifiers have completed IPC Ice Sledge Hockey training, show leadership, participate in research and development of the classification system, and have sufficient experience to implement the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Classification Regulations at a Competition. The Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier’s Code of Conduct.

The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to assisting in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Regulations and profiles for IPC Ice Sledge Hockey; participation in Classifier workshops; assisting in regular reviews of Classification Regulations and Sport Profiles; and supervising and evaluating Classifiers.

### **3. Classification Panels and Classification**

#### **3.1 Classification Panels**

- 3.1.1** A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers empowered by the rules of the Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey to evaluate Athletes and allocate Sport Classes.
- 3.1.2** The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier should appoint a Classification Panel for a particular Competition.
- 3.1.3** A Classification Panel should include a suitably accredited and qualified physician and physiotherapist.
- 3.1.4** Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relationship with any Athlete (or any member of Athlete Support Personnel) that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest.
- 3.1.5** Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with Classification.



### **3.2 National Classification**

All Athletes eligible to participate in IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Competitions should, where possible, be classified by their own National Federation. National Classification should be conducted in accordance with the Sport Profiles. National Classifiers should be trained according to IPC Ice Sledge Hockey approved standards.

### **3.3 International Classification**

- 3.3.1** “International Classification” refers to the process of Athlete Evaluation (as explained in these Classification regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, a major and/or International Competition that has been sanctioned by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.
- 3.3.2** An Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.
- 3.3.3** An “International Classification Panel” must conduct International Classifications. An International Classification Panel should be comprised of suitably accredited and certified Classifiers. An International Classification Panel must comprise not less than two Classifiers, and a major Competition must have at least two Classification Panels (subject to Section 3.3.4 below).
- 3.3.4** The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one suitably accredited and qualified physician or physiotherapist in special or unusual circumstances, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances.
- 3.3.5** An International Classification Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.



### **3.4 Preparing Classification Panels for Competition**

- 3.4.1** The Head of Classification should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three (3) months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels should, where possible, be appointed two (2) months before a Competition.
- 3.4.2** The Head of Classification may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The Head of Classification and the Chief Classifier should work with the Local Organizing Committee for the Competition to identify which Athletes will require Athlete Evaluation at the Competition.
- 3.4.3** The Chief Classifier should provide the Local Organizing Committee for the Competition and National Federation teams with an Athlete Evaluation schedule on or before their arrival at the Competition.

## **4. Classification: Athlete Evaluation**

### **4.1 Athlete Evaluation**

- 4.1.1** “Athlete Evaluation” is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport class and a Sport Class Status.
- 4.1.2** Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English.
- 4.1.3** The Athlete and the relevant National Federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.4** The Athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Athlete Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.5** The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with all necessary sports equipment and in such attire as is specified for the Sport of Ice sledge Hockey. The Athlete



must provide a recognized form of identification, such as a passport or an ID Card.

- 4.1.6** If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain, which limits or prohibits full effort, the Classification Panel may decide that Athlete Evaluation will not take place. The Classification Panel may, in its sole discretion, agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.7** The Athlete must disclose details of any medication routinely used by the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The Classification Panel may in its sole discretion decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it considers that the use of such medication will affect its ability to conduct Physical and/or Technical Assessment. The Classification Panel may agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.8** If an Athlete fails to disclose the use of medication as required by Section 4.1.7 the Chief Classifier may set aside the Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status, and require that the Athlete repeat Athlete Evaluation. If this results in a change in Sport Class the consequences set out in Section 5.4 below shall apply.
- 4.1.9** One person may accompany Athletes during Athlete Evaluation, who should be familiar with the Athlete's impairment and sporting ability. An interpreter may also accompany the Athlete.
- 4.1.10** Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the Classification Panel for all Classification purposes connected to the Competition.

## **4.2 Athlete Evaluation Process**

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

### **4.2.1 Physical Assessment**

The Classification Panel should conduct a Physical Assessment of the Athlete in accordance with the Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes within IPC Ice Sledge Hockey, so as to establish that the



Athlete exhibits an impairment that qualifies the Athlete for participation in the sport.

#### **4.2.2 Technical Assessment**

The Classification Panel should conduct a Technical Assessment of the Athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the Athlete participates.

The means by which Technical Assessment should take place should be specified in the Sport Profile for the relevant Sport Class. Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete in order to observe how the Athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

#### **4.2.3 Specified Means of Physical and Technical Assessment**

These Regulations may specify certain means of conducting Physical and Technical Assessment. These means are included as Appendix Two to these regulations and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.

### **5. Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status**

#### **5.1 Sport class and Sport class status**

##### **5.1.1 Sport Class**

- 5.1.1.1** A Sport Class is a category in which Athletes are designated by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment, and the degree to which that impairment impacts upon sport performance. A range of function will exist within each Sport Class.
- 5.1.1.2** A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 5.1.1.3** An Athlete that does not have a Sport Class prior to international or major Competition must be allocated an "Entry Sport class" prior to Athlete Evaluation. An "Entry Sport Class" is a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete (by a National Federation or otherwise) prior



to an international or major Competition in order to indicate the Sport Class within which the Athlete intends competing. All Athletes allocated an Entry Sport Class for a Competition must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at that Competition.

## **5.1.2 Sport Class Status**

**5.1.2.1** A Sport Class Status will be allocated to an Athlete following allocation of Sport Class.

**5.1.2.2** Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

## **5.1.3 Sport Class Status Designations**

The following Sport Class Status designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status

### **5.1.3.1 Sport class status New (N)**

Sport Class Status New (N) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- has not been evaluated by an International Classification Panel but has been allocated an Entry Sport Class by a National Federation (following National classification or otherwise) in order that Athlete Evaluation may take place; or
- has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and allocated Sport Class NE, but is eligible to undertake Athlete Evaluation pursuant to Section 5.2.5 below.
- has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and found to be either Non Cooperative during Evaluation, or Intentionally Misrepresenting Skills during Evaluation, but is subsequently eligible to undertake Athlete Evaluation.

**N Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.**

### **5.1.3.2 Sport Class Status Review (R)**

Sport Class Status Review (R) is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel but is subject to re-evaluation. The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition. R Athletes include, but are not limited, to Athletes who have fluctuating and/or progressive impairments, or, because of their age, have impairments that may not have stabilized.

**R Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.**

### **5.1.3.3 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)**

Sport class status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an Athlete who has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and the International Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change. An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete Athlete Evaluation at Competitions sanctioned by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey. An Athlete with a C Sport class must, however, undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made under Exceptional Circumstances.

### **5.1.3.4 Restrictions on Allocating Confirmed Status**

An Athlete cannot be assigned a Confirmed Sport Class if the Classification Panel that designated the relevant Sport Class consisted of one Classifier only.

## **5.2 Ineligibility and Sport Class NE**

- 5.2.1** If an Athlete does not have a relevant impairment, or has an Activity Limitation resulting from a relevant impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.



- 5.2.2** In these circumstances, the Athlete will be assigned Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 5.2.3** If an International Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport class Not Eligible at a Competition, the Athlete will be entitled to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a second Classification Panel either at that Competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition, and will have no further right to Protest.
- 5.2.4** Section 5.2.3 shall not apply to an Athlete Evaluation conducted following a Protest made under Exceptional Circumstances.
- 5.2.5** An Athlete who has been assigned Sport Class NE may only undertake further Athlete Evaluation with the express permission of the Head of Classification. This permission may be granted if:
- 5.2.5.1** the Head of Classification is provided with information which demonstrates that there has been a significant change in the Athlete's circumstances (for example, medical factors) since the Athlete's most recent evaluation; and/or
  - 5.2.5.2** Sport Class allocation criteria have changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation, and the Head of Classification believes that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation; and/or
  - 5.2.5.3** The Head of Classification is provided with any other information that demonstrates that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation.
- 5.2.6** For the avoidance of doubt, the restrictions placed on an Athlete detailed in 5.2.5 above shall apply to the Sport of IPC Ice Sledge Hockey only.



### **5.3 Allocation of Sport Class**

- 5.3.1** Following completion of Physical Assessment and Technical Assessment the Athlete will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 5.3.2** The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the National team representative for the Athlete and the Local Organizing Committee for the Competition as soon as possible.

### **5.4 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition**

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. The results from Classification at each Competition will be published for all countries on the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey website, normally within four (4) weeks of the end of the Event.

## **6. Classification: Failing to Comply with Evaluation Rules**

### **6.1 Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation**

- 6.1.1** If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.
- 6.1.2** Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend evaluation, an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation.
- 6.1.3** Failure to attend evaluation includes not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

## **6.2 Non Co-operation during Evaluation**

- 6.2.1** An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation.
- 6.2.2** If the Athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the respective Competition in the respective sport.
- 6.2.3** Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.
- 6.2.4** Any Athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to co-operate.

## **6.3 Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 6.3.1** An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.

In addition:

- The Chief Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey classification master list;
- The Athlete will be designated as IM (Intentional Misrepresentation) in the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey classification master list and on the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey web list;
- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for IPC Ice Sledge Hockey for a period of two (2) years from the date upon which the



Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities; and

- The National Federation will be informed of the decision.

**6.3.2** An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate to IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.

#### **6.4 Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel**

**6.4.1** IPC Ice Sledge Hockey shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete Evaluation; to fail to co-operate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

**6.4.2** Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.

**6.4.3** In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring Intentional Misrepresentation by the Athlete.

#### **6.5 Publication of Penalties**

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey will disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel.

### **7. Classification: Protests and Appeals**

#### **7.1 Protests**

**7.1.1** The term “Protest” is used in these Rules as it is in the IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals. It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.



- 7.1.2** A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a “Protest Panel”.
- 7.1.3** An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual Competition. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 7.1.4** IPC Ice Sledge Hockey may only resolve a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by IPC Ice Sledge Hockey.
- 7.1.5** Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 7.1.6** Protests may be submitted only during a Competition (save for Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances).

## **7.2 When Protests May Take Place**

**7.2.1** Athletes with Sport Class New Status (N) may be Protested by any National Federation, or the Chief Classifier, following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall be designated:

- Review Status (R); or
- Confirmed Status (C); or
- Not Eligible to Compete (NE)

**7.2.2** Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (R) may be protested by any National Federation or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall remain Review Status or be designated:

- Confirmed (C) Status; or
- Not Eligible to Compete (NE)



**7.2.3** Athletes with Sport Class Confirmed Status (C) may be protested only in Exceptional Circumstances.

### **7.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions**

**7.3.1** Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorized to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager) and/or the Chief Classifier.

**7.3.2** The Chief Classifier for the Event, or a person designated for that Event, shall be the person authorized to receive Protests on behalf of IPC Ice Sledge Hockey at an Event.

**7.3.3** An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested, either by the Athlete's National Federation or a different National Federation within one (1) hour of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class being published.

**7.3.4** Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest Form that should be made available by the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form must include the following:

- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
- Details of the decision being protested;
- The reason for the Protest;
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;
- The signature of the National Federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
- A fee of one hundred (100) Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that Competition).

**7.3.5** Upon receipt of the Protest Form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that if there is no valid reason for a Protest, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the



Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. IPC Ice Sledge Hockey will retain the Protest Fee.

- 7.3.6** If the Protest is declined the Chief Classifier shall explain why to the National Federation as soon as is possible.
- 7.3.7** If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel shall consist of, at a minimum, the same number of Classifiers as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, and shall comprise Classifiers of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 7.3.8** The Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 7.3.9** The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.10** All documentation submitted with the Protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels should conduct the initial evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel that allocated the Athlete's most recent Sport Class.
- 7.3.11** The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class (including the initial Classification Panel).
- 7.3.12** Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. IPC Ice Sledge Hockey will retain the Protest Fee unless the Protest is upheld.

**7.3.13 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.**

#### **7.4 Protests in Exceptional Circumstances**

A Chief Classifier may make a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances in respect of any Athlete at any time during or prior to a Competition if the Chief Classifier reasonably believes that an Athlete's Sport Class no longer reflects the Athlete's ability to compete equitably within that Sport Class.

Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of impairment of an Athlete;
- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
- An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability; or
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation.

**7.4.1** The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:

- The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
- The processes and procedures referred to in Articles 7.3 (where relevant) will apply to Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.

**7.4.2** Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

**7.4.3 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.**



## **7.5 Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance with Protest Rules**

- 7.5.1** A National Federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.
- 7.5.2** If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest because no valid reason for a Protest has been identified by the National Federation, or the Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances.
- 7.5.3** If a National Federation resubmits a Protest, all Protest procedure requirements will apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a second Protest fee must be paid (which will be refunded if the Protest is upheld).

## **7.6 Appeals**

The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for IPC Ice Sledge Hockey. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws, which are part of the IPC Handbook.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review Classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.



## **8. Ad Hoc Rules for Paralympic Games and Major Events**

These Classification Regulations may be amended, supplemented or superseded by the Classification Guide for a Paralympic Winter Games or Major Competition. The Classification Guide for a Paralympic Winter Games or Major Competition shall detail the timeframes within which the Classification Guide will take precedence over these Regulations.



## Glossary

<b>Activity Limitation</b>	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities that may include attainment of high performance skills and techniques in the field of sporting performance.
<b>Athlete</b>	For purposes of Classification , any person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by each International Federation) 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.
<b>Athlete Evaluation</b>	The process by which an Athlete is assessed in order to be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
<b>Athlete Support Personnel</b>	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.
<b>Competition</b>	A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.
<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	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.
<b>Event</b>	An "Event" is a sub-set of a Competition that requires specific technical and sporting skills (for example, Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing are separate Events).
<b>International Competition</b>	A Competition where an International Sports Organization (IPC, IF, Major Competition Organization, or another International Sport Organization) is the governing body for the



Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Federation (IF)**

A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC. IPC is an International Federation for a number of Paralympic Sports.

**IPC**

International Paralympic Committee.

**Local Organizing Committee for Competition**

An administrative body formed for the purposes of organizing and administering a specific Competition or series of Competitions.

**National Competition**

A Competition where the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**National Federation**

The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.

**National Paralympic Committee (NPC)**

A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of Athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC. In addition, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.

**Paralympic Games**

Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

**Protest**

The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status is submitted and subsequently resolved.



## **APPENDIX ONE: IPC ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY SPORT PROFILES**

The Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey currently has one Sport Class. This Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete that exhibits an impairment of permanent nature in the lower part of the body of such a degree that it is obvious and easily recognizable, and makes ordinary standing skating and consequently regular Ice Hockey playing impossible.

It is expected that Athletes will exhibit normal upper body function, and any impairment in the upper body will not affect the requirement to exhibit the impairment criteria listed below.

Athletes who do not exhibit the impairment criteria listed below, but who are unable to participate in regular Ice Hockey sports as a result of conditions such as chronic post-traumatic painful disorders, instability of ankle or knee joints or similar conditions, will not be eligible to compete in Ice Sledge Hockey. In addition, Athletes whose impairment is limited to hip disorders will not be eligible to compete in Ice Sledge Hockey.

The impairment criteria include:

### **Amputees**

Through the ankle or above

### **Paresis**

Loss of 10 muscle points in both legs (not counting grade 1 and 2; max point 80)

### **Joint mobility**

Ankylosis of ankle joint

Extension defect of at least 30 degrees or ankylosis of knee

### **Ataxia, Athetosis and Hypertonia**

Spasticity/dyscoordination whereby the Athlete:

- shows moderate to minimal spasticity in one half of the body; or
- can walk without help but the spasticity in lower extremities can cause a limp during walking; or
- demonstrates that running increases spasticity and causes limping

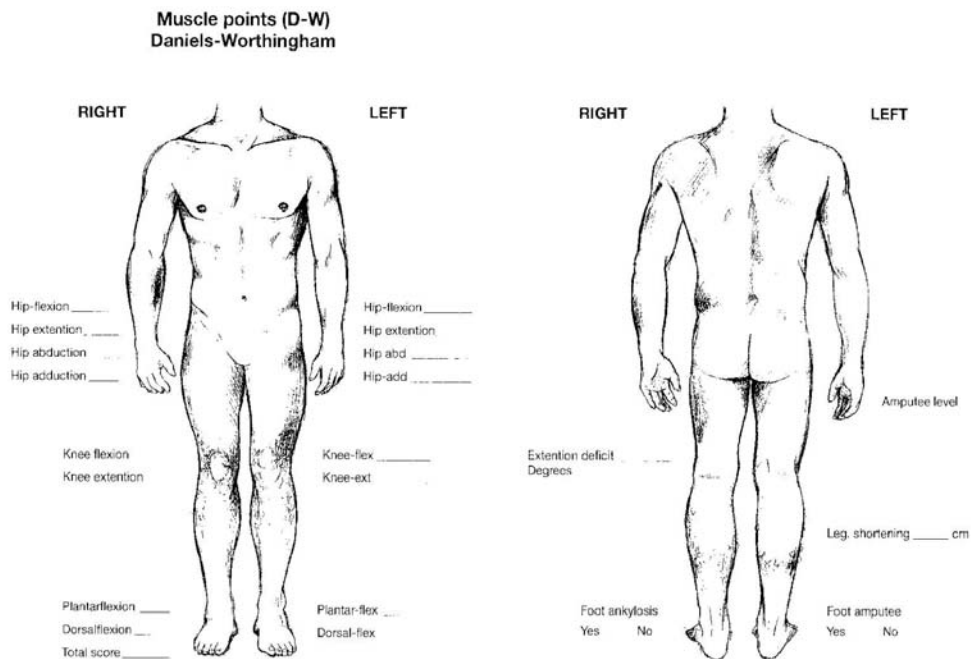


**Leg discrepancy**

One leg must be at least 7 centimeters shorter than the other, as measured from the umbilicus to the highest point of the medial malleol.

## APPENDIX TWO: IPC ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

Athletes will be subjected to a number of Muscle Tests, as described below. The Daniels and Worthingams "Muscle testing" techniques of manual examination, 8th edition, will be used.



## **HIP FLEXION**

**Position-** Short sitting with thighs fully supported on table and legs hanging over edge. Patient may use hands for support.

**Therapist-** Standing next to the patient with hand on distal knee.

**Test-** Flex hip to end of range, holding against examiners resistance.

**Instruction-** Lift your leg of table and do not let me push it down.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Thigh clears table, patient tolerates max resistance.

**GRADE4=** Hip flexion holds against strong to moderate resistance, there may be some "give" at the end position.

**GRADE 3=** Patient completes test range and holds the position without resistance.

## HIP EXTENSION

**Position-** Patient prone, if hip flexion contracture do modified test.

**Therapist-** Standing at side of limb, opposite side. Hand providing resistance on the post leg just above the ankle.

**Test-** Patient extends hip through entire available range of motion. Resistance is given straight down towards the floor.

**Instruction-** Lift the leg of the table as high as you can without bending the knee.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Patient completes available range and holds test position against maximum resistance.

**GRADE 4=** Patient completes available range against strong to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3=** Completes range and holds the position without resistance.

### Modified ext test for hip flex tightness

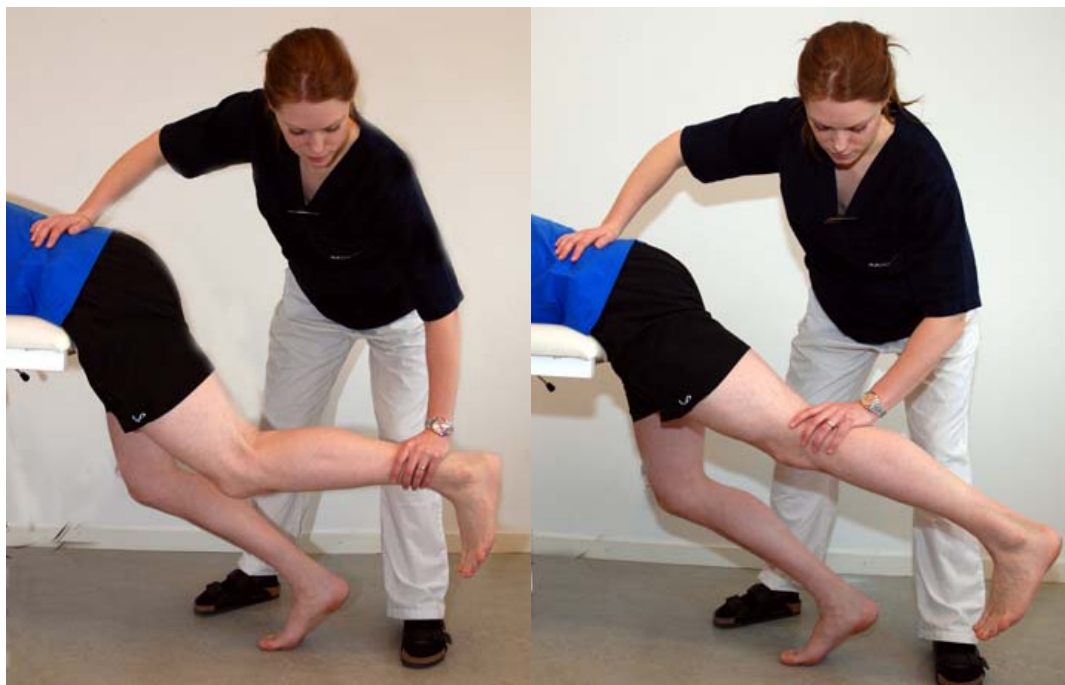
**Position-** Patient stands with hips flexed and place torso prone on the table.

**Therapist-** Standing at side of limb on opposite side. Hand placed over posterior thigh just above the knee, the opposite hand stabilizes the pelvis laterally to maintain posture.

**Test-** Patient extends hip through available range, which is less with bend knee (tension in rectur femoris).

**Instruction-** Lift your foot of the floor as high as you can.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Completes available range of hip ext, holds against max resistance.

**GRADE 4=** Completes available range of hip ext. Limb position can be held towards heavy to moderate resistance.

**GRADE3=** Completes available range and holds end position without resistance.

### **HIP ABDUCTION:**

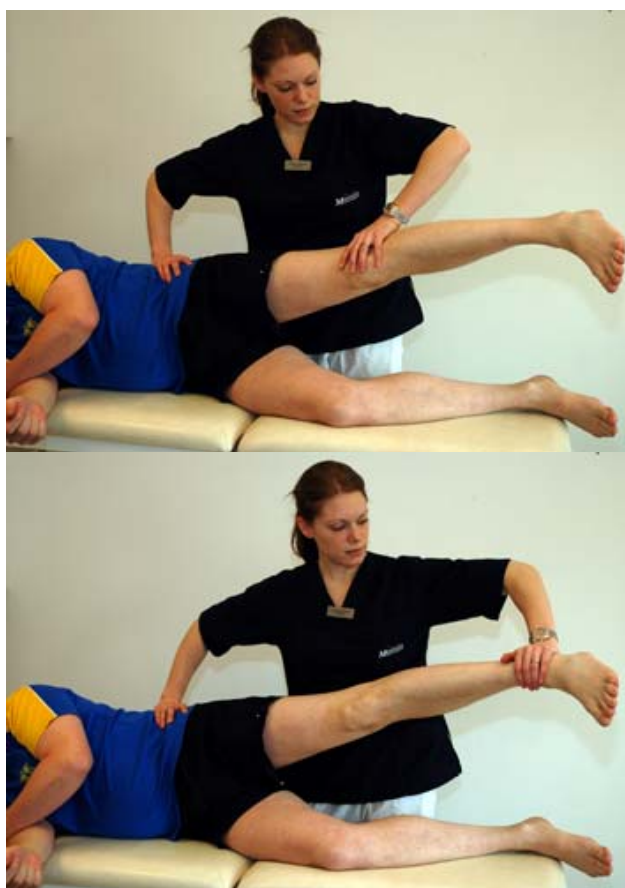
**Position-** Side lying with test leg uppermost. Slightly extended with pelvis rotated slightly forward, lower leg bent for stability.

**Therapist-** Standing behind patient, hand contoured across the lateral surface of knee. The other hand just proximal to the greater trochanter.

**Test-** Abduction through available range of motion without flexion or rotation of hip in either direction.

**Instruction-** Lift your leg and do not let me push it down.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Completes available range of motion and holds against maximal resistance.

**GRADE 4=** Completes available range of motion and holds against heavy to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3=** Completes range of motion and holds end position without resistance.

## **HIP ADDUCTION:**

**Position-** Side lying with test limb lower most resting on the table. Upper leg in 25 degrees of abduction, supported by the examiner.

**Therapist-** Standing behind patient at knee level, the hand giving resistance to the test limb (lower most) is placed on the medial surface of the distal femur, just proximal to the knee joint. Resistance directed straight downward to the table.

**Test-** Adducts hip until the lower limb contacts the upper one.

**Instruction-** Lift your bottom leg towards the upper one and do not let it drop.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Completes full range, holds against full resistance.

**GRADE 4=** Holds against strong to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3=** Completes range of motion but takes no resistance.

## **KNEE EXTENSION**

**Position-** Short sitting

Hand supporting under knee, other hand on ankle, do not hyperextend knee.

**Therapist-** Standing at side of limb to be tested, pressure over ankle in a downward direction.

**Test-** Extend through available range of motion but not beyond 0 degrees.

**Instruction-** Straightens your knee and do not let me bend it.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Holds end position against max resistance.

**GRADE 4=** Against strong to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3=** Completes range and holds position without resistance.

## **KNEE FLEXION**

**Position-** Prone with limbs straight and toes hanging over the edge of the table.

**Position-** Standing next to limb to be tested, hand contoured around the posterior surface of the leg just above the ankle, the other hand over the hamstrings tendon.

**Test-** Patient flexes knee while maintaining leg in neutral rotation.

**Instruction-** Bend your knee, hold it and do not let me straighten it.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Resistance maximal and the end knee flexion position can not be broken.

**GRADE 4=** End position holds against strong to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3=** Holds end range position but tolerate no resistance.

## **FOOT DORSIFLEXION-INVERSION**

**Position-** Short sitting with foot in examiners knee.

**Therapist-** Hand supporting around ankle and the other cupped over dorsomedial aspect of foot.

**Test-** Patient dorsiflexes ankle and inverts foot, keeping toes relaxed.

**Instruction-** Bring your foot up and in, hold it, and do not let me push it down.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5**= Full range of motion towards max resistance.

**GRADE 4**= Against strong to moderate resistance.

**GRADE 3**= Completes full range of motion and holds without resistance.

## **ANKLE PLANTAR FLEXION**

**Position-** Stand on limb to be tested with knee extended, not more than 2 fingers for support on table.

**Therapist-** Standing or sitting with lateral view.

**Test-** Heel raises from floor through full range of motion.

**Instruction-** Go up and down on your tiptoes.

Illustration:



**GRADE 5=** Minimum of 25 raises.

**GRADE 4=** Between 24-10 raises.

**GRADE 3=** Between 9-1 raises.