

2006 Adaptive Rowing Classification Guidelines at 230206

2006 FISA ADAPTIVE ROWING CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES at 23 February 2006)

Preamble

FISA's objective for adaptive rowing is inclusion: to provide the opportunity for athletes with a disability, both men and women, to compete at FISA events and Paralympic Games. FISA is responsible for the classification of adaptive athletes who wish to compete in rowing at an international level and has established classification criteria which define the minimum disability of an athlete permitted to compete in each of the designated boat classes. Before a rower can compete in a FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification regatta or Paralympic Games, the classification of the rower must be approved by FISA.

Classification places athletes in groupings with other athletes of similar levels of recognised disability to provide competition which is as fair as possible. In spite of this criteria, FISA recognises and accepts that the respective classifications encompass a range of disabilities and that there will be athletes with disabilities which may be greater than the minimum and who may therefore be at a disadvantage competing in their adaptive boat class.

These guidelines will be revised as FISA works to harmonize its classification procedures with the International Standards set out in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. The Code will be accepted by FISA on or before the opening of the 2008 Paralympic Games and implemented by FISA on or before the opening of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

CONSENT FORM

Before commencing the classification process all rowers are required to sign the appropriately designated the FISA Consent for Adaptive Rowing Classification Form

FISA CLASSIFIERS

An International Rowing Classifier is one who has been approved as such by FISA

There are two types of FISA Classifier:

- (1) FISA Classifier (Medical): a medical doctor, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or similarly qualified person;
- (2) FISA Classifier (Technical): a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

FISA Classifiers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may appoint an Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the qualification process and the appointment of Classifiers.

PROCESS

The standard FISA classification process is conducted by a FISA International Classification Panel comprised of two FISA Classifiers, one of whom must be a FISA Classifier Medical and one a FISA Classifier Technical

The process involves three parts:

- (1) Bench Test – directed by a FISA Classifier (Medical)
- (2) Ergometer Test- directed by a FISA Classifier (Technical)
- (3) On Water Observation- directed by both a FISA Classifier (Medical) and a FISA Classifier (Technical) during training and competition

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INTERIM CLASSIFICATION

As an interim measure, and an exception to the standard FISA classification process pending the qualification of a sufficient number of FISA Classifiers, classification may be undertaken by a team comprised of a qualified international classifier in another Paralympic sport and a person with technical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach. If this interim measure is to be used, specific prior approval in each case must be obtained from FISA. This interim measure classification provides the rower with a 'N' Status. A completed and signed classification application form must be submitted to FISA with the required documentation for approval.

2006 Interim Classification Process

Athletes may be Classified:

1. at one of the FISA Classification workshops: Hong Kong in February, Great Britain in May or Canada in July;
2. by FISA trainee Classifiers and then approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006;
3. by an IPC International Classifier from another sport and then be approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006;
4. those classified at the 2005 World Rowing Championships with (C) status must be approved again by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006.

Note:

1. All rowers with (C) status should obtain their eligibility passport before the entry deadline for the 2006 World Rowing Championships. Those failing to obtain this passport will be ineligible unless they are approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before the entry deadline of 7 July 2006.
2. Entry to the 2006 World Rowing Championships for rowers with (N) status will only be granted if the Classification Application Form is completed fully and correctly, and all required supporting documentation has been received within the deadline. If any documentation is incomplete, the entry will not be accepted.

CLASSIFICATION STATUS:

New (N) Status

A sport class status allocated to an athlete who has not been classified by a FISA International Classification Panel. One of either an international classifier from another Paralympic sport, a FISA trainee classifier or a FISA Classifier may classify rowers from their own federation or region and such classifications shall have the status of "N". A rower with a classification status of "N" may compete at National level or non-FISA events.

Review (R) Status

FISA Classifiers may allocate a classification with an "R" status to a rower where the Classifiers consider the rower's current disability may change, further observation is required, or for reasons determined by FISA (for example a Protest). Rowers with an "R" classification may be required to undergo a further classification process prior to competing at a FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification regatta or the Paralympic regatta.

Confirmed (C) Status

For a Confirmed international status classification, the rower must be classified by FISA Classification Panel [one medical and one technical classifier]. A rower with "C" status classification may compete in all FISA and Paralympic events permitted by their classification.

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RECLASSIFICATION

Once a rower has been classified and has received a C sport class status, the rower can only be reclassified if there has been a change in the rower's disability, a change in the classification system, or a Protest which results in a reclassification.

ELIGIBILITY & CLASSIFICATION

A. LTA (Legs, trunk and arms)

The LTA class is for rowers with disability but who have the use of their legs, trunk and arms and who can utilise the sliding seat. LTA rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following three disability groups:

(1) Intellectual disability

A rower must meet the eligibility criteria established by the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) and have completed the athlete eligibility application using the April 2005 Form on the INAS-FID website (www.inas-fid.org) and have been issued with a INAS-FID Athletes Card. Athletes classified under criteria prior to April 2005 must be re-registered with INAS-FID using the April 2005 Form. The *FISA Classification Application Form* must be completed and submitted to FISA accompanied by a copy of INAS-FID April 2005 Form with support documents such as copy of IQ test score and athletes card by the closing date for entries for the event at which the athlete wishes to compete. For 2006, the deadline for submission of the Classification Application will be 7 July 2006.

(2) Visual impairment

A rower must have been classified by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) in one of the B3, B2 or B1 classes. The *FISA Classification Application Form* must be completed and submitted to FISA, signed by a medical ophthalmologist or optometrist, and accompanied with required supporting documents by the closing date for entries for the event at which the athlete wishes to compete. For 2006, the deadline for submission of the Classification Application will be 7 July 2006.

(3) Physical Disability

The minimum physical disability is the loss of ten points on one limb (either the upper or lower limb for muscle strength) and/or in the range of movement test when assessed against the *Functional Classification Test* (as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities), or a full loss of three fingers on one hand. Rowers with physical disability must be assessed by a FISA Classifier using the *Functional Classification Test*.

Eligible LTA rowers will typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Amputation: At least one single foot amputation at the metatarsal joints or three fingers of one hand.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CP-ISRA).
- Blind: 10% of vision in best eye with best correction (from visual acuity above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or a visual field of more than 5% and less than 20%)
- Intellectual impairment: INAS-FID April 2005 criteria

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Note:

If a crew includes rowers whose disability is visual impairment, a maximum of two such rowers is permitted in the LTA4+, one of whom must be B1 or B2. All visually impaired rowers must wear FISA approved goggles at all times when on the water during both training and competition from the opening day of the course until the final race of their competition. Such goggles shall completely block all remaining vision of the athletes.

B. TA (Trunk and Arms)

The TA class is for rowers who have trunk movement but who are unable to use the sliding seat because of significantly weakened function of the lower limbs as defined below.

Eligible TA rowers would typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

1.
 - Bilateral around knee amputation, or impaired quadriceps, or
 - Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or
 - Combination of the above such as one leg with around knee amputation and one leg with quadriceps impairment; or
2.
 - have been classified by the international sports federation for athletes with cerebral palsy (CP-ISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

C. A (Arms Only)

The A class is for rowers who have no or minimal trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only). An A class rower is able to apply force using the arms and/or shoulders only. The classifiers shall adopt a Functional Classification Test in their assessment process, using the scale set out therein.:

Eligible rowers would typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA); or
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10, or
- Functional impairment of *rectus abdominis* (Beevor's sign).

Note:

1. In order to ensure that the arms only aspect of the A1x boat class are fully met, the A1x boat shall have a high seat back to which the athlete is strapped so that only the arms and shoulders can move during rowing. The strap should be at the level of the diaphragm, directly below the nipples or breasts, and be tight enough to restrict any trunk movement without causing breathing problems. For safety reasons, the type of such strapping must be single-movement quick release.

Forms to be completed for an Adaptive Rowing Classification Application will follow in March 2006.