

CLASSIFICATION NEWSLETTER

WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

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1. Classification Committee Chair Message

This is the fourth newsletter from the World Archery Classification Committee to International Classifiers and Classifier Candidates. The goal of this newsletter is to provide the classification team information on any changes or updates to forms or the Handbook, to discuss any ongoing or new issues arising from classifications or questions from archers, coaches or fellow classifiers and to present case studies to challenge you to think through different scenarios that may arise and discuss possible solutions or interpretations of the Handbook and rules for para archery. The plan is for the Classification Committee to publish a newsletter two times a year.

The Classification Committee includes:

- Roman Suda, CZE – Head of Classification.
- Chiara Barbi, ITA
- Lars Meiworm, GER
- Nancy Littke, CAN

On behalf of World Archery, I would like to thank all classifiers who have been active in the season 2019, for your services. Classification is a very important part of para sport and our team has done 133 assessments during the previous season. The qualification process for Tokyo 2020 has begun and pressure on our team is growing. We made a great progress in this due to our new database. Our team member Chiara Barbi created a list of archers whose current classification appears to be questionable or does not seem to match with their functional level. We have started to use our legal tool International federation protest to ensure that all archers are properly classified prior to the Games. This will continue during 2020 season as well and it is highly recommended to all members of our classification team to be familiar with this. Another very important piece of information is that the Classifiers Handbook has been updated upon request of the IPC and upon our growth and development as we use it. This updated version (November 2019) will be published immediately after approval of WA Executive board, but no later than January 2020. Last, but not least is development of National classification seminar which are a part of our education program. I happy to inform you that in 2019 our team held three courses for National classifiers (Dubai UAE, Den Bosch NED, Buthan). It is a very important part of our work to ensure that our classification rules are utilized and understood worldwide to ensure consistency and to decrease the risk that a nationally classified archer will arrive for international classification and receive very different results. This is a long term task, but we expect that this mission will help our with our future work if archers will be arriving Nationally classified according our international rules. I wish all of you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2020.

Roman Suda

2. Handbook update information

Classifiers handbook has been updated after more than two years due to initiation of the IPC classification committee. It is now validated by the Executive board of WA and will be published by the end of the year 2019. See the list of changes noted below and ensure you have familiarized yourself with the change prior to the start of the 2020 classification year. This year most classifications will take place early in the year in preparation for the 2020 Paralympics at the end of August. List of changes:

Section 1 Rules

- Classification status

- Section 5 - Sport class

profiles visually impaired

Section 6 - Sports equipment and assistive devices Permitted body support/strapping

Appendices

- Appendix 2 - VI classifications Standards and

Procedures entire appendix updated

- Appendix 4 - Protests and Appeals

appeal section is updated

It is mandatory for all classifiers to be familiar with this new handbook as soon as it will be published.

There will be updated version of class form as well.

Change in the form will be in section „status“. New „R“ status will be added and „NE" will be removed from this part, because NE is not a status, according to the IPC rules and our updated handbook. Submitted by Roman Suda, Chair

Research

Two research projects are in the proposal stage:

1) The validity of the WA classification system (Prof. Ingi Einarson, LME).

2) Evaluation of static coordination (sitting/standing) in para archery athletes considering the influence of technical aids (Prof. Walter Rapp, LME).

Both projects need the official acceptance and support by WA.

The relevant parties of WA are completely informed about all details.

We are waiting for a response.

Submitted by Lars Meiworm

Forms

The webpage contains links to all the forms required for classification. **Please use only the forms found on the website and destroy all other copies.** Always ensure you download the most recent copy of any form directly from the WA Para page on the website.

The forms included on the site are:

- The Medical Intake form – this form now includes the front page with the National Archery Federation signature and seal, as well as the Medical information form to be completed and signed by the most responsible medical doctor. If the medical form has been translated into English by a professional translator, the doctor **MUST** sign the translation to confirm accuracy. Please also note that the **CONSENT/PERMISSION FORM** is now part of the Medical Intake Form and must be signed by the archer prior to evaluation.
- The VI Medical Intake form –
- The Classification Form – this form has been corrected to ensure the dropdown menus are correct.
- **Please only use the forms on the webpage** and no longer use any other forms.
- The Classification Master List - A Template form to fill out at the end of classification that includes all the information required for the WA Data Base and Para Archery Master List. This file should be sent to the chief classifiers appointed for a specific event.
- The webpage now includes copies of the World Archery Para Archery Protest Form and Appeal form to be used as needed by National Federations or by the Chief Classifier if initiating a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances.

3. New electronic classification system and database

First, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed actively this year as international classifiers. The introduction of the new electronic system has not been easy and has not yet become familiar to everyone, but thanks to your feedback we are working to make its use as simple as possible.

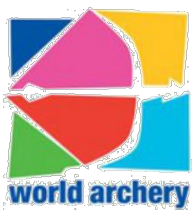
In this year of “road to Tokyo 2020” there have been 7 international tournaments of which 2 with allocation of quota place. Nine panels have been involved and had completed a total of 132 classifications.

The growth of Paralympic movement, the increase in the number of athletes appearing for the first time at international para archery events require that each of us be constantly updated on IPC and WA international rules in order to respond to international standard required. The Classification Committee has among the various tasks to supervise the result of all classifications so as to correct any errors and allow each athlete to compete in the right sport class, with the right sport status and ensure the fairness of our sport.

In this year some common errors have been identified in the compilation of the classification forms.

In this regard, I would like to remind you of the following points:

- A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors
- The allocation of sport status has to follow specific rules (there will be an update in the handbook).



The differences between R and FRD is that An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any International Competition unless the International Sport Federation specifies otherwise. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (FRD) is required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed date.

- When an athlete is classified NE because of not minimum criteria achieved by the first panel (ex. Loss of 22 points in the Lower Limbs) he must classify NE-R, if the second panel found enough points and the minimum criteria has reached the athlete will be assigned again the R status (ST-R). The third panel will assign the final status (NE-C or ST-C)
- The NE-C status can be assigned by the first panel only if the athlete has not an eligible impairment. Please do not forget to explain the reasons of R or FRD status in the right column of classification form (first page "comment")

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of fulfilling the tasks required in particular by the Chief Classifiers. The request to send back within one week the final report and excel copies of the classification forms, is not a whim of the commission. **This is mandatory to be able to enter the data in the electronic system and generate the master list to publish on the site of the World archery**, it is also necessary in order to let the committee be able to manage any requests from NF or WA representative.

Once again thank you for your fundamental work always carried out with passion and professionalism. Submitted by Chiara Barbi

4. Updated International Classifier List

World Archery Classifiers' list - Updated 25 November 2019						
* SENIOR CLASSIFIER - CHIEF CLASSIFIER						
Name	Surname	NOC	Status	CA	Gender	World Archery Classifier since
World Archery International Classifiers						
Ayunur	Demirel	TUR	IC	EU	F	2018
Ela	Matzkin	ISR	IC	AS	F	2015
Herve	Toggwiler	FRA	IC*	EU	M	2013
Chan	Wing Nga	HKG	IC	AS	F	2013
Chiara	Barbi	ITA	IC*	EU	F	2011
Ida Hasni	Shaari	MAS	IC	AS	F	2015
Irene	Cuesta	ESP	IC*	EU	F	2015
Lars	Meiworm	GER	IC*	EU	M	2011
Lilian	Zietsman	RSA	IC	AF	F	2015
Marc	Remie	NED	IC	EU	M	2015
Megan	Tierney	USA	IC	AM	F	2018
Nancy	Littke	CAN	IC*	AM	F	2015
Petra Sanchez	Ruocco	BRA	IC	AM	F	2018
Roman	Suda	CZE	IC*	EU	M	2001
Sasithorn	Saengrueangrob	THA	IC	AS	F	2013
Seunghwa	Lee	KOR	IC	AS	F	2006
Tsung-Ching	Lin	TPE	IC	AS	M	2009
Marco	Carpignano	ITA	IC	EU	M	1998
Kim Fong	Pang	SIN	IC	AS	M	2004
World Archery International Classifier Candidates						
Andreas	Hegmann	GER	ICC	EU	M	2011
Guozhi	Chen	CHN	ICC	AS	M	2009
Kwanchit	Chinakas	THA	ICC	AS	F	2013
Mohd Haidzir	Abd Manaf	MAS	ICC	AS	M	2006
Mohammadreza	Rashidi	IRI	ICC	AS	M	2011
Cindy	Poorman	USA	ICC	AM	F	2018

Reminder of Mandatory ongoing participation/training

- Attendance at WA International Classifier Conference, held at World Archery Outdoor Para Championships every 2 years. Must attend 1 in every 4 years.
- Identify availability for International Classifier panels – minimum - 1 event every 2 years
- Active participation in Case Study discussions 2x/year (Jan, May, Sept) as circulated by Classification Committee
- Successful completion of written exam yearly (Nov)

Promotion from International Classifier to Candidate

- This promotion will be made annually in December by the Classification Committee based on active involvement in mandatory activities, successful participation in classification panels, effective performance in classification.

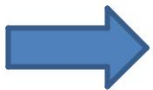
Identification of performance issues

- Classification committee will monitor performance of all classifiers based on following:
 - Form completion – correct and complete
 - Appropriate Identification of athletes appropriate for classification based on eligible impairments/diagnoses on MIF
 - Appropriate testing and classification determination

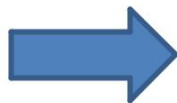
If performance issues are identified – strategies to address concerns will be identified and agreed upon between classifier and Classification Committee. These strategies will identify timelines and expectations to be completed. If these strategies do not achieve the desired, necessary changes the Classification Committee has the authority to remove an International Classifier/Candidate from the Classifier List. The Head of Classification may remove an individual from the list due to serious failures upon the confirmation of the Para Archery Committee and/or the Secretary General.

Inactive classifiers

International classifiers – ongoing participation requirements not completed in 2 years



Move to International Classifier Candidate List – if ongoing participation requirements still not completed within 2 years



Removed from International Classifier List

Any current classifiers who have not attended a Classifier seminar since September 2018 have been moved to ICC status. Any classifiers who have not participated in a classification event or have not provided availability for events in the last 2 years will be moved to ICC status. These individuals will return to IC status when they have attended a classifier seminar and participated in a classification event by 2020. Failure to do so will result in the potential removal of the individual from the current classifiers list.

5. Spring 2019 Case study answers

Diagnosis on MIF: L5 injury causing nerve damage which required a laminectomy, Neck injury requiring a plate and screw to be implanted to correct bulged disc and the subsequent loss of feeling and strength in left forearm and thumb.

The completed classification form shows scores of 3/5 for strength in all abdominal muscle groups and all muscle groups for both the right and left leg. Loss of 16 in trunk and 40 in lower limbs. Balance for both standing and sitting graded as FAIR. The individual is observed walking with no gait aid or balance problems when functioning on or off the field of play.

Classified as a ST athlete with permission to use a stool.

Please discuss this case based on the current classification handbook (Oct 2017). Would you have any concerns regarding the reason for classification and the recorded results on the classification card. If you saw this archer on the field of play, what would you do?

Answer: There are a few questions that must be asked and clarified with regards to the MIF. Generally, an L5 laminectomy is performed to decompress the intervertebral foraminal space on one side of the spine and decrease the effects of impingement on the L5 nerve root. This MIF does not identify if the L5 injury is unilateral or bilateral in nature. It also does not identify any injury to the spinal cord itself rather than just the L5 nerve root. I would suggest that the chief classifier would need to ask for more information before the application could be considered. If the injury was in fact simply related to an unsuccessful laminectomy that results in some residual nerve damage to one or both L5 roots it may be eligible for classification. However, as many noted, injury at the L5 level would potentially only affect the ability of the archer to plantar and/or dorsiflex the feet. There is no indication of a need to assess any muscle function at the knee or hip. There is definitely no indication to assess abdominal muscle strength. Total paralysis of both sides (highly unlikely based on the MIF) would only achieve a max of 20 point loss – NE classification. The card identifies the exact same amount of muscle function loss at every muscle in the abdomen and both lower limbs. This also would be very unlikely an outcome of any injury, even an incomplete lesion at the L5 cord level.

The cervical level injury with some loss of strength of the thumb may be eligible but would not add up to enough points to be eligible as a para archer.

The entire classifier team identified that this case should result in a re-evaluation and a PiEC should be requested due to:

- 1) Classifier error – would be the most relevant reason as the evaluation results do not match the MIF reported condition so an unexplained result has been achieved and an incorrect classification provided.
- 2) impairments observed that are inconsistent with the observed function – this would be related to the identified balance problems, no evidence of gait or balance dysfunction on or off the field, and the use of an assistive device. This observation also supports the decision to protest the archer's classification related to #1. The PiEC evaluation should only test the archer's eligible impairments. There is a real possibility that this will result in insufficient points and an NE classification. If this is the case, the archer would be automatically eligible for a second evaluation by a different panel.

With the available information it would be difficult to accuse the archer of misrepresenting his condition. This would only be possible if the archer demonstrated questionable results during the evaluation itself.

- 2) Discuss this wheelchair and what you would suggest if this archer arrived at equipment inspection. Is it an allowable chair? If not, why not – provide your justification for your decision.

Answers: This question resulted in two distinctly different sets of answers. Some of the team have stuck to the letter of the rules and determined the chair is not allowed as the push handles, considered part of the wheelchair, are not less than 110 mm below the armpit of the archer and must be modified.

Some of the team have identified that the back of the wheelchair that provides support to the archer and is the only part in constant contact with the archer is well below the 110 mm level. They feel that the push handles are not part of the actual functioning wheelchair and do not need to meet the 110 mm rule. There is no way the push handles can be used to support the scapula or either arm which is the reason for the 110 mm rule being implemented.

As classifiers, we need to be fully aware of the rules but also of the intent of the rule.

This wheelchair has been allowed on the shooting field for the reasons identified by the second group. The first group's answer is not wrong but does not take the intent of the rule into account.

It has been suggested that a picture of the chair and an explanation for making the an exception should be included on the front comment section of the classification form to ensure judges and future classifiers understand the reasoning for allowing the chair as it is. This is a great idea and would save the archer a lot of grief with future equipment inspections.

6. Mandatory Case Study Exercise

THESE CASE STUDIES MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE ANSWERS RETURNED TO classification@archery.org NO LATER THAN **Feb 15, 2020**. THIS EXERCISE IS A MANDATORY PART OF THE ONGOING CLASSIFIER TRAINING PROGRAM

Question

What would you do if during equipment inspection an athlete shows up with this assistive devices? This is her first international appearance.

The diagnosis of this athlete is “agenesia of both upper limbs”(no other limbs involved - no trunk involved)

