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1. Editorial

Welcome to issue #13 of the World Archery Classifiers Newsletter, published in April 2026

A new outdoor season is underway, and what a start it has been. With the launch of the new Hyundai World Archery Para Series and a calendar already rich with events and classification requests, the enthusiasm across the para archery community is clear.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all classifiers for your continued dedication and professionalism. Your work – both at international competitions and within your national structures – remains essential to ensuring fairness and inclusion in our sport. We encourage everyone to stay active not only on the field, but also in continuing education and in closely reviewing the updated rules.

Looking ahead, we plan to implement a re-certification process for international classifiers by the end of this year. We are currently reviewing the most appropriate delivery methods to ensure that the current geopolitical context and travel restrictions do not limit anyone’s ability to participate or update their knowledge.

Together, we can continue strengthening the quality and consistency of para classification worldwide. Thank you once again for your commitment and passion – the season ahead is expected to be both busy and rewarding for the global classification community.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment.

Chiara Barbi

Head of classification

2. New electronic classification card

World Archery is pleased to introduce the new **electronic international classification card**, a step forward in improving efficiency, accessibility, and data protection within para archery classification.

The classification assessment process will continue to use the **existing Excel (.xls) classification card**. Prior to each event, the head of classification will provide the chief classifier with the most up-to-date version of this document. Following the completion of the evaluation process, this card must still be **printed (double-sided)** and **provided to the athlete** as the official record of their classification outcome.




At present, the classification assessment process will continue to use the **existing Excel (.xls) classification card**. Prior to each event, the head of classification will provide the chief classifier with the most up-to-date version of this document. Following the completion of the evaluation process, this card must still be **printed (double-sided)** and **provided to the athlete** as the official record of their classification outcome.

In parallel, a significant innovation has been implemented for teams. It is now possible to **independently download and print the electronic classification card directly from WAREOS**. This new format includes a **QR code**, which will be used by judges during equipment control to verify the validity of the athlete's classification card quickly and securely.

This development brings several important advantages:

- **Greater autonomy for teams**, who no longer need to request reprints in case of loss or deterioration of the card.
- **Permanent access** to the most current version of the classification card through the electronic system.
- **Improved data protection**, as sensitive medical information is no longer unnecessarily shared with individuals who are not authorised to process such data (e.g. judges).

This transition represents an important step toward modernising classification procedures while maintaining the integrity, security and accessibility of athlete information.

International Classification Card		
WA ID: 27969		
Family Name:	Hood	
Given Name:	Robin	
Date of Birth:	2010-07-07	
Gender:	M	
Member Association:	World Archery	
Nationality:	WA	
Para Archery Classification		
Sport Class:	PI 1	
Status:	Confirmed status	
Date of Evaluation:	2026-01-01	Place of Evaluation: Lausanne SUI
Adaptive Equipment(s):		
Wheelchair, Strapping, Release Aid system, Shooting Assistant		
		
<small>Document creation date and time: 2026-03-16 14:25</small>		
<small>Last Update 2026-03-16 1 / 1</small>		

3. Updates on Extranet para section (documents and resources)

The para section of the Extranet has recently been reorganised and expanded to improve accessibility and ensure classifiers can easily locate the latest documents and resources.

This update includes the publication of **additional resources relevant to national classifiers**, further supporting consistency and alignment across all levels of classification. Among the newly available documents is the **updated national classification card in Excel (.xls) format**, which now reflects the revised sport class names.



All classifiers are encouraged to regularly consult this section, as it will continue to serve as the primary repository for the latest versions of classification documents, guidelines and tools.

While key updates will continue to be communicated through the newsletter, checking the [Extranet para section](#) frequently is strongly recommended to ensure you are always working with the most current materials and procedures.

Staying up to date with these resources is essential to maintain the quality, accuracy and consistency of classification activities worldwide.

4. Clarification on “New” and “Not Eligible” designations

Further clarification is provided on how athlete status and eligibility-related designations are managed within para archery, in accordance with the IPC 2025 Classification Code and [World Archery Classification Rules](#) (Book 5.1).

In World Archery, once a classification request is submitted – including athlete registration in WAREOS and the required medical documentation – the classification committee performs an initial document review. At this stage, athletes are generally assigned an “**N – New**” status, indicating that they have not yet been evaluated by an international classification panel and must attend an in-person assessment.

It is important to emphasise that the assessment of Eligible Impairment (EI) and the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) is formally conducted by the international classification panel during the in-person evaluation.

While the final decision always rests with the panel, in **specific and clear cases**, the classification committee may provide **preliminary feedback to teams** based on the documentation submitted.

This may include:

- Cases where the documentation clearly indicates a **not eligible impairment for para archery** (e.g. short stature), or
- Cases where there is an **evident high risk of not meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria** (e.g. partial amputation of the foot or hand)

In such situations, the committee may send a **report to the teams** to highlight that:

- There is a high likelihood that no sport class may be allocated,
- The need for additional supporting medical documentation to be provided prior to or during the evaluation, and
- The outcome of the in-person classification could result in a Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (NE–MIC) decision

The purpose of this communication is to **support teams in making informed decisions** on whether to enter an athlete for in-person classification, particularly when the probability of non-eligibility is high.

Role of the classification panel

The international classification panel remains solely responsible for all **formal classification decisions**, including:

- **Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (NE–EI)**
- **Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (NE–MIC)** – assigned when an athlete has an eligible impairment but does not meet the MIC upon evaluation
- **Classification Not Completed (CNC)** – applied when the panel is unable to complete the assessment during the evaluation session. Under World Archery rules, athletes with a CNC designation are not eligible to compete until the classification process is completed and a sport class is assigned



This clarification reinforces the distinction between the advisory role of the classification committee and the decision-making authority of the international classification panel, ensuring transparency while supporting better planning for teams and athletes.

5. Case study

This case study is **mandatory for international classifiers**, recommended for those wishing to become international classifiers, and strongly encouraged for national classifiers as part of continuous education.

Case study: Managing incomplete medical documentation

An athlete presents with two eligible impairments resulting from the same road traffic accident:

- Limb deficiency: below-knee amputation of the right leg
- Impaired muscle power: affecting the left leg due to permanent damage to the common peroneal (fibular) nerve

However, the Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) submitted prior to classification only reports the amputation and identifies limb deficiency as the sole eligible impairment. No reference is made to the neurological impairment affecting the left leg.

Question:

How should the classification panel proceed during the in-person evaluation, and what is the correct approach under World Archery Classification Rules (Book 5.1)?

Chiara, Chan, Ida, Lars

World Archery classification committee