



# PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSIFICATION MANUAL

FEI Equestrian Events for Athletes with Impairments



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## FOREWARD

This Classification Manual is the Fifth Edition produced by the FEI Classification Working Group in consultation with the FEI Para-Equestrian Technical Committee, FEI Classifiers and National Federations.

The contents of this Manual have been written with reference to the following documents produced by the FEI or the International Paralympic Committee:

- FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules
- IPC Athlete Classification Code (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals (2015)

The FEI Classification Manual applies to:

- Athletes and their support personnel participating in the FEI Para-Equestrian Paralympic discipline of **Para-Equestrian Dressage**.
- Athletes and their support personnel participating in the FEI **Para-Equestrian Driving discipline**.
- All Classification Personnel.

It is recommended that National Federations adopt this Manual for National Classification.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Activity Limitation	Refers to the difficulty an individual may experience when performing skills and techniques required for Para-Equestrian sports.
Athlete	Any person who participates in Para-Equestrian sport at either International Level (as defined by the FEI) or National Level (as defined by the National Federation).
Athlete Evaluation	Refers to the process by which the Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel so that the Athlete can be allocated a Grade and Grade Status.
Classification	Athlete Evaluation conducted with the aim of allocating a Grade and entitles the Athlete to compete at recognised Events. Classification is conducted for International or National Level Events.
Classification Panel	A group of Classifiers approved by the FEI to conduct Athlete Evaluation at a FEI Events.
Classification Personnel	All persons involved in or associated with the process for Athlete Evaluation, including the FEI Head of Classification, FEI Classification Working Group, FEI Classifiers, Chief FEI Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers.
Classification Master List	A list, which is maintained and monitored by the FEI, of Athletes who have undergone Classification for the sport of Para-Equestrian at International Level.
CNC	Classification Not Completed
Competition	Refers to each individual class in which Athletes are placed in an order of merit and for which prizes may be awarded.
Eligible Impairment	An Impairment which is a pre-requisite for the Athlete to be allocated a Grade for Para-Equestrian sport.
Entry Grade	Refers to the Grade allocated to the Athlete by their National Federation prior to an FEI Para-Equestrian Event. An Entry Grade is indicative only and is subject to change upon Athlete Evaluation for International Level Events.
Event	A complete meeting, "Show", "Championship" or "Games". Events may be organised for one or more than one FEI Discipline. An Event shall include the Classification Evaluation period.
FEI	Fédération Equestre Internationale.
FEI Rules and Regulations	Any rule and regulation duly approved by an appropriate body of the FEI, including but not limited to Statutes, General Regulations, and Sport Rules.
Grade	A Grade or Sport Class is a sporting competition category that is allocated to an Athlete following Athlete Evaluation. It is allocated based on the existence of an Eligible Impairment and compliance with

	the Minimum Impairment Criteria, and the degree to which Impairment impacts upon sport performance.
Grade Status	Refers to the Status of the Grade or Sport Class and indicates whether the Athlete will be required to undergo Athlete Evaluation again in the future. It is also identifies whether the Athlete's Grade Status is subject to challenge through Protest.
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.
Impairment	A deficiency in or loss of body function or structure.
IPC	International Paralympic Committee.
IPC Athlete Classification Code	The IPC Athlete Classification Code (2015) and accompanying International Standards and subsequent versions.
Medical Review	The process by which an Athlete can apply to the FEI to undergo Athlete Evaluation in order that the Athlete's Grade may be reviewed to ensure the Athlete's Grade remains a fair allocation.
Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)	The minimum standard set by the FEI in relation to the Eligible Impairment that must present in order for the Athlete is deemed eligible to compete in Para-Equestrian Sport.
NF	National Federation.
Non-Competition Venue	Non-Competition Venue is any place or location designated by the FEI as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Grade and designated with a Grade Status.
OC	Organising Committee for the nominated Event.
PE	Para-Equestrian sport.
VI	Vision Impairment.

## 1. PURPOSE

Classification for Para-Equestrian sport enables the grouping of Athletes into Grades according to how much their impairment affects the fundamental activities required for the disciplines of either Para-Equestrian Dressage or Para-Equestrian Driving.

The purpose of the FEI Classification system is to promote participation in sport by people with Eligible Impairments by minimising the impact of the Impairment on the outcome of competition.

As a result of the Classification process the Athlete is allocated a Grade according to how much their Impairment impacts on the core determinants of success in Para-Equestrian sport. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an Athletes' Impairment is relevant to performance on the horse. Classification thereby provides a framework for fair and equitable competition.

Classification is a statement of fact, not a test, while the judgement of the Athlete's ability when Riding or Driving the horse is the function of the Competition, not the Classification. The purpose of the Competition is to reward skill; Classification must therefore not penalise those who have achieved a high skill level.

All Athletes with Impairment who intend to enter FEI Para-Equestrian Events must proceed through the Classification process conducted by a Classification Panel. The criteria for eligibility for Classification should be established before the Athlete proceeds to Evaluation. Once eligibility is established the Impairment is assessed to determine if the Minimal Impairment Criteria is met, as described in Section 7.

Classification for Para-Equestrian focuses on Impairments which may be broadly classified as physical (movement and mobility) or sensory (visual). The Classification assessment will determine the Athletes Impairment **Profile** which then enables the allocation of a **Grade** for competition. The Grade includes a number of Profiles which have been combined according to how the Impairment impacts the core determinants for the sport.

There are **five Grades** for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events. Grade I is for the Athletes with a severe Impairment; Grade V is for the Athletes with the least Impairment. The sixth Grade is for Athletes deemed Not Eligible as a result of the Classification process.

There are **two Grades** for Para-Equestrian Driving Events. Grade I is for the Athletes with a greater Impairment; Grade II is for the Athletes with a lesser Impairment. The third Grade is for Athletes deemed Not Eligible as a result of the Classification process.

The Classification Manual provides the framework for the Classification of Athletes whose health condition results in physical and/or sensory Impairments, competing in FEI Para-Equestrian Events, including Para Equestrian Dressage and Para Equestrian Driving. The Manual provided shall be interpreted and applied at all times in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Classification Code.

## 2. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

2.1 An FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier carries out Classification for FEI Events.

2.2 An FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier:

- Is a physiotherapist or medical doctor with recognised and appropriate qualifications
- Holds current authority to practice in their home nation
- Meets all competencies as described in the FEI Classifier Education System- and is certified by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) to conduct Athlete Evaluation.
- Is able to converse competently (written and spoken) in business English

2.3 The FEI appoints and/or approves the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of Classification for the FEI:

2.3.1 Head of Classification (appointed by the FEI) who is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of all Classification matters for the FEI. The Head of Classification will also fulfil the role of Chair of the Classification Working Group. The Head of Classification may be appointed as Classifier/Chief Classifier.

2.3.2 Classification Working Group (appointed by the FEI) comprising at least three members in addition to the Head of Classification

2.3.3 Chief Classifier (approved by the FEI), who is a member of the appointed Classification Panel at an FEI Event, is responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for that Event. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by FEI to do the following:

- Identify those Athletes who will be competing at that Event who will require Athlete Evaluation;
- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that the FEI Rules are applied appropriately during a specific Event
- Manage the Protest process as required (Section 23).
- Liaise with the Event OC to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Event

2.4 All FEI Classification Personnel must comply with the FEI Rules and Regulations and with the standards of behaviour mandated in the FEI Classifier Code of Conduct.

2.5 If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of the FEI Rules and Regulations and/or the FEI Classifier Code of Conduct, the Classification Personnel shall be subject to any disciplinary action as per the FEI General Regulations.

### 3. CLASSIFIER EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

- 3.1 The FEI is responsible for the education and accreditation of FEI Para-Equestrian Classifiers and will provide opportunities for their on-going professional development and training.
- 3.2 FEI Para-Equestrian Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers must hold suitable qualifications as either a physiotherapist or medical doctor as recognised by their national professional association and hold current authority to practice their profession in the country where they practice.
- 3.3 To be accredited as an FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier it is necessary to complete all requirements as stated by the FEI Classifier Education System available on the FEI website. Those who demonstrate all competencies required of an FEI Para-Equestrian Classifier may be awarded FEI Classifier status.

More information regarding the FEI Classifier Education System can be found on the FEI Website - <http://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/officials/dressage>

#### The FEI Classifier Education Pathway in summary





#### **4. CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

- 4.1 A Classification Panel is appointed by the FEI to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with this Manual. A Classification Panel comprising two FEI Para-Equestrian Classifiers will be appointed for nominated FEI CPEDI3\* and CPEDI4\* (including Championships) Para-Equestrian Events as described in the FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Rules.
- 4.2 FEI Classification for Para-Equestrian Events must be carried out by two accredited FEI Para-Equestrian Classifiers with one Classifier being from a different nation to the Athlete.
- 4.3 The members of the Classification Panel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete support personnel present at an Event or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest.
- 4.4 Classification Personnel must disclose to the FEI any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel.
- 4.5 Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at an Event will not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.6 A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it is considered that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.7 Classification for Vision Impairment (Profiles 36 and 37) must be carried out by a suitably accredited Classification Panel comprising two International Classifiers for Vision Impairment in accordance with this Manual.

#### **5. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION**

- 5.1 To be considered Eligible for Para-Equestrian sport, the Athlete must present with a health condition or Impairment that is permanent and thereby unlikely to be resolved, thereby the principal effects are lifelong. The presenting Impairment must be verifiable and measurable.
- 5.2 The Athlete with an Eligible Impairment must also comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria set by the FEI for each individual discipline within Para-Equestrian sport.
- 5.3 The assessment of whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken as provided for in the IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
- 5.4 A determination that an Athlete either has a Health condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment, or that an Athlete has an Impairment which is not an Eligible Impairment, will result in the Athlete being allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE)

5.5 The **Eligible Impairments** for Para-Equestrian disciplines are:

<b><i>Impairment</i></b>	<b>Description</b>
<b><i>Impaired muscle power</i></b>	Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio.
<b><i>Impaired passive range of movement</i></b>	Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogyriposis. Hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.
<b><i>Limb deficiency</i></b>	Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
<b><i>Leg length difference</i></b>	Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.
<b><i>Short stature</i></b>	Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.
<b><i>Hypertonia</i></b>	Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
<b><i>Ataxia</i></b>	Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
<b><i>Athetosis</i></b>	Generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis
<b><i>Visual impairment (VI)</i></b>	Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex

## 6. PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT

- 6.1 Medical and diagnostic documentation in regards to the Athlete's Impairment is required for all Athletes applying for FEI Classification for Para-Equestrian.
- 6.2 All Athletes must provide, by way of their National Federation, evidence that establishes the existence of a Health condition that is capable of causing an Eligible Impairment.
- 6.3 All documentation must be legible and provided in English or be accompanied by an English translation.
- 6.4 It is required that all medical and diagnostic documentation is provided by the National Federation to the FEI on behalf of the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The documentation will be reviewed by the FEI Classification Working Group to determine if the Athlete has an Eligible health condition or Impairment.
- 6.5 A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it is considered that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.6 The FEI Certificate of Diagnosis completed by the Athlete's General Practitioner may be sufficient documentation where the Impairment or Health condition is not complex, for example, below knee amputation. For other Health conditions and Impairments, Athletes will be required to provide additional medical and diagnostic documentation to inform the Athlete Evaluation procedure. This may include reports from medical specialists.  
*Note: Where an Athlete presents with a complex health condition (for example, multiple sclerosis), additional documentation must include specific details of the diagnosis (such as the type of multiple sclerosis), date of diagnosis and results of medical investigations.*
- 6.7 Athletes with fluctuating Impairments will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation on more than one occasion and may be required to provide updated medical documentation to support the level of change in their impairment. These Athletes remain Review (R) Status unless there is evidence their health condition has stabilised.
- 6.8 For all Athletes, failure to produce the required medical documentation or documentation which is not consistent with the outcome of the Athlete Evaluation will result in the Athlete Evaluation being suspended.

## 7. MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA (MIC) FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN

- 7.1 The Minimum Impairment Criteria is the minimum standard set by the FEI in relation to the Eligible Impairment that must be present in order for the Athlete to be deemed eligible to compete in Para-Equestrian Sport.
- 7.2 International Classification for Para-Equestrian sport is selective and not intended to be inclusive of all health conditions and impairments.
- 7.3 Athletes with a minimal Impairment must meet the FEI Minimal Impairment Criteria to compete in Para-Equestrian Events.
- 7.4 The FEI MIC standard is greater than 15% loss of power, range or coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb. (Refer sections 29; 30; and 31)

## 8. ATHLETE EVALUATION FOR FEI CLASSIFICATION

- 8.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is allocated a Grade and a Grade Status to compete in Para-Equestrian.
- 8.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses the following:
  - An assessment of whether the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Para-Equestrian sport;
  - An assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para-Equestrian sport;
  - An assessment and evaluation of the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para-Equestrian sport;
  - If required, the conduct of an Observation Assessment;
  - The allocation of a Grade and designation of a Grade Status.
- 8.3 A National Federation can lodge a request on behalf of an Athlete with impairment to undergo an Athlete Evaluation for the purpose of competing in FEI Para Equestrian Events.
- 8.4 The Classification request must be made by the Athlete's NF and include:
  - 8.4.1 The FEI Classification Request Form, completed legibly and in English;
  - 8.4.2 FEI Consent for Classification Form
  - 8.4.3 FEI Certificate of Diagnosis and any additional medical documentation that demonstrates the Athlete's impairment. All documentation provided must be in English.
- 8.5 The Classification request must be received by the FEI at least 6 weeks before the next International Event where the Athlete intends to compete.

- 8.6 The tasks referred to in Article 8.2 above must be undertaken by a Classification Panel approved by the FEI and will be conducted by the members of the Classification Panel in a professional and respectful manner.
- 8.7 Athletes have the right to choose one person to accompany them when presenting for Athlete Evaluation. It is recommended that the accompanying person is a member of the National Federation, or by a person approved of by the National Federation. If the Athlete is a minor, that Athlete must be accompanied by a member of the respective National Federation.
- 8.8 Athlete Evaluation will be conducted in English unless all present speak a common language or as otherwise stipulated by the FEI. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, the National Federation will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter to be present.
- 8.9 A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Grade.
- 8.10 A Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation and/or FEI when allocating a Grade.
- 8.11 An Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel. If the Athlete uses approved medication to manage pain or muscle spasms, the Athlete is required to take the medication within an appropriate time frame to be of maximum affect at the time the Athlete Evaluation is conducted.
- 8.12 A Classification Panel will have access to all the evidence that it considers necessary for the allocation of a Grade, subject to that evidence being provided to it fairly.
- 8.13 The Athlete may be videotaped and/or photographed during any part of the Athlete Evaluation process and may include the Athlete's activity on and off the field of play during the Event. Pre-existing video and/or records may also be used by the Classification Panel to inform the Athlete Evaluation.
- 8.14 Audio-visual evidence will only be used for the purpose of Athlete Evaluation unless the Athlete has provided written consent for use by the FEI for the purpose of research or education relating to Classification.
- 8.15 Splints or prostheses used when competing must be considered during the Athlete Evaluation. No Athlete shall be permitted to compete wearing or using any prostheses or special equipment that has not been included in the Athlete Evaluation.
- 8.16 An Athlete is encouraged to be as able as possible and must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

- 8.17 At FEI Events, Classification for those Athletes with either New (N) or Review (R) Status (Refer Section 13. Grade Status) will be conducted by the Classification Panel appointed and results made available to the OC prior to the draw for competition being conducted.
- 8.18 Athlete Evaluation for FEI Classification will be offered at nominated and approved FEI events. Athlete Evaluation is not available at Paralympic Games.
- 8.19 Athlete Evaluation is not available for Athletes with New (N) Status at Championships
- 8.20 It is the responsibility of the Athlete's NF to arrange for the evaluation of Review Athletes within the nominated time frame, failure to do so may mean the Athlete is unable to compete.

## **9. OBSERVATION IN COMPETITION ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 A Classification Panel can request that an Athlete undertakes an Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a Grade to that Athlete to determine the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by the sport.
- 9.2 Observation in Competition Assessment must be undertaken at an Athlete's First Appearance, being the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Grade.
- 9.3 Observation in Competition Assessment must not be undertaken in order to establish if an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria.
- 9.4 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to undertake Observation in Competition Assessment, this must take place after the assessment of compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria and the assessment of the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 9.5 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete an Observation in Competition Assessment following completion of the physical assessment the provisions described below regarding observation assessment will apply:
- 9.5.1 The observation assessment may take place during training or prior to the Competition starting to enable a Grade to be allocated. This is the recommended option for the observation assessment. The time and place are to be agreed upon by the Athlete, the NF, the OC, the Technical Delegate and the Classification Panel.
  - 9.5.2 The observation assessment may also take place once the Event has started but must be done during the Athlete's first appearance which is the first time the Athlete competes at the Event.

- 9.6 Following the Observation in Competition assessment the Athlete may be required to attend a reassessment of their impairment by the Classification Panel at the Event where they were observed. In this case, the NF will be notified of the time for this reassessment to occur.
- 9.7 The Classification Panel will record the result of the Observation in Competition Assessment on the Athlete Classification assessment document.
- 9.8 On completion of the Athlete Evaluation the Athlete is assigned a Profile, Grade and Grade Status.

## **10. FAILURE TO ATTEND ATHLETE EVALUATION**

- 10.1 If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation, but fails to do so, the Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend Athlete Evaluation, specify a revised time and date for Athlete Evaluation at the relevant Event.
- 10.2 If the Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on this second occasion, or is, in view of the Chief Classifier, unable to provide a reasonable explanation of his or her first nonattendance, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Event.

## **11. SUSPENSION OF ATHLETE EVALUATION**

- 11.1 A Classification Panel may suspend an Athlete Evaluation in one or more of the following circumstances where it is felt that the circumstance will affect their ability to conduct the Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. This includes:
- 11.1.1 The Athlete fails to meet any of the requirements detailed above for attendance at Athlete Evaluation.
  - 11.1.2 The Classification Panel needs to consider the use (or non-use) of any medication disclosed by the Athlete.
  - 11.1.3 An Athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation.
  - 11.1.4 An Athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) that limits or prohibits the Athlete from complying with requests made by the Classification Panel or presents his or her abilities in an inconsistent way during the course of Athlete Evaluation (e.g. pain).
  - 11.1.5 An Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given to him or her by a Classification Panel (or a Chief Classifier or the relevant Head of Classification) during the course of Athlete Evaluation. Such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of Non- Cooperation.
  - 11.1.6 An Athlete's presentation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with other information made available.
- 11.2 If a Classification Panel suspends an Athlete Evaluation the following steps will be taken:

- 11.2.1 The Classification Panel will explain the reason for the suspension to the Athlete and the Athlete's National Federation and details the further action that is required on the part of the Athlete.
  - 11.2.2 The Chief Classifier will specify a time and date for resumption of the Athlete Evaluation on the condition that the Athlete takes the further action specified by the Classification Panel.
  - 11.2.3 If the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation having taken the corrective action to the Classification Panel's satisfaction, the Classification Panel will attempt to complete the Athlete Evaluation and allocate a Grade and Grade Status. This procedure will be subject to the Classification Panel's right to further suspend Athlete Evaluation as described above.
  - 11.2.4 If the Athlete fails to take the corrective action required to the Classification Panel's satisfaction and within the time specified by the Chief Classifier, the Classification Panel will terminate the Athlete Evaluation and the FEI will designate the Athlete as being "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) within the Classification Master List. This designation will preclude the Athlete from competing at any FEI Event until Athlete Evaluation is completed. The FEI will stipulate from time to time how this designation impacts on performance recognition.
- 11.3 The Athlete and/or Athlete support personnel may be subject to further investigation by the FEI regarding intentional misrepresentation.

## **12. GRADE FOR COMPETITION**

- 12.1 A Grade that enables an Athlete to compete in the sport of Para-Equestrian will be allocated by the Classification Panel following Athlete Evaluation process.
- 12.2 An Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria set by the FEI to be allocated a Grade for Competition.
- 12.3 Where an Athlete presents with borderline scores between Profiles and therefore Grades, an Athlete may be required to be evaluated by a second Classification Panel as soon as practicable. The Athlete will be allocated the higher Grade and Review status. Following Evaluation by the second Classification Panel the Grade and Grade Status can be allocated.
- 12.4 If an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment or has an Eligible Impairment that does not meet the Minimal Impairment Criteria, he or she will not be Not Eligible to compete within the sport of Para-Equestrian. If an Athlete is Not Eligible to compete he or she will be allocated a Grade Not Eligible and recorded on the FEI Classification Master List.



## 13. GRADE STATUS

13.1 Where the Classification Panel allocates a Grade to an Athlete, it must also designate a Grade Status. Grade Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Grade may be subject to Protest in accordance with the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.

13.2 The Grade Status includes:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review (R)
- Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD)
- New (N)

13.3 CONFIRMED (C):

13.3.1 An Athlete will be designated with Grade Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment will remain stable. An Athlete with Grade Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation.

13.3.2 An Athlete who has been allocated a Grade of Not Eligible can be designated a (C) Status if that Athlete is not entitled to a further Classification (Refer Section 15)

13.3.3 The Athlete with Status (C) can only be Protested under Exceptional Circumstances (Refer Section 23.17)

13.4 REVIEW (R):

13.4.1 An Athlete will be designated Grade Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before an Athlete can be allocated Grade Status Confirmed (C). This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:

13.4.1.1 Has only recently entered Competition in Para-sports;

13.4.1.2 Has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;

13.4.1.3 Is a minor;

13.4.1.4 Achieved a borderline result in the previous Athlete Evaluation.

13.4.2 An Athlete with Grade Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any FEI Event unless the FEI specifies otherwise.

13.4.3 An Athlete who has been allocated a Grade of Not Eligible can be designated a (R) Status if that Athlete is entitled to a further Evaluation (Refer Section 15).

- 13.4.4 An Athlete with (R) Status may be subject to Protest as described in Section 23.

#### 13.5 REVIEW WITH FIXED REVIEW DATE (FRD):

- 13.5.1 A Classification Panel may designate an Athlete's Grade with Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD). An Athlete with Grade Status Review (FRD) is required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed date.
- 13.5.2 An Athlete with (FRD) Status is required to undergo a Review Athlete Evaluation within a time frame or Fixed Review Date assigned by the Classification Panel.
- 13.5.3 The Classification Panel should assign (FRD) Status where appropriate in preference to Review (R) Status with no fixed review date.

#### 13.6 NEW (N) Status:

- 13.6.1 An Athlete may be allocated a Grade by the FEI prior to undertaking Athlete Evaluation. Any such Athlete will be designated Grade Status New (N). This will apply if a National Federation has allocated an Entry Grade to the Athlete, and the Athlete has not completed FEI Classification yet.
- 13.6.2 An Athlete with Grade Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any FEI Para-Equestrian Event, unless the FEI specifies otherwise.
- 13.6.3 An Athlete who has been designated with Grade Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any FEI Para-Equestrian Event.

- 13.7 If, at an Event, the Athlete is allocated a different Grade to his or her National Classification Grade and has therefore been entered in the wrong Grade, the Athlete can either compete in the Grade allocated by the FEI Classification Panel or stay in his or her entered Grade for the duration of that Event.

- 13.8 If the Athlete chooses to compete in the Grade he or she was entered (if lower than the newly assessed Grade), the score as calculated from the total of all the Judges' percentages will be reduced by 10 percent (10%) of total result. Medals won by that Athlete will remain with the Athlete and he or she will appear on the scoreboard and results sheets.

- 13.9 If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Grade Status in error and/or clear breach of this Manual, the following will occur:

- 13.9.1 The Head of Classification will advise the Athlete through the relevant National Federation as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief

13.9.2 Immediately amend the Athlete's Grade Status, and advise the Athlete through the relevant National Federation

13.9.3 Inform the FEI who will make the appropriate amendment to the FEI Classification Master List.

## **14. REQUEST TO UNDERGO RE-EVALUATION DUE TO MEDICAL REVIEW**

14.1 Where an Athlete, NF and/or FEI Head of Classification believes an Athlete's Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the profile for his or her Grade a request for Review can be made.

14.2 The Athlete's NF must make a Medical Review request to the FEI on the Athlete's behalf.

14.3 A Medical Review Request may be made if an Athlete has been allocated:

- A Grade Status Confirmed (C) or
- A Grade Status Review - Fixed Review Date (FRD)

14.4 The Athlete and his or her NF must ensure that the Medical Review request abides by the following provisions:

- Explain that the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed since the last Athlete Evaluation to an extent that the Athlete's Grade might not be accurate anymore
- Is signed by the NF representative and completed and signed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation.

14.5 Each Medical Review request will be assessed by the FEI to ensure that all requisite information and documentation have been provided.

14.6 The Head of Classification will, in conjunction with the Classification Working Group decide whether or not the Medical Review request should be upheld.

14.7 If the Medical Review request is upheld the Athlete's Grade will be amended from Confirmed to Review on the FEI Classification Master List and a note made in the comments section; or the Athlete's previously allocated Fixed Review Date will be amended and the Athlete will be requested to undertake Athlete Evaluation at the next available opportunity.

## **15. ATHLETES WITH GRADE NOT ELIGIBLE**

15.1 The FEI will allocate a Grade Not Eligible (NE) when the Athlete:

- Presents with a health condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment.
- Presents with an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment.  
(Refer sections 29; 30; and 31)

### Health conditions and Impairments which are Not Eligible for the Para-Equestrian disciplines of Dressage and/or Driving

Examples of health conditions and impairments include but are not limited to:

- wear and tear on joints due to advancing age
- general debilitating disease
- obesity
- osteochondritis
- impairments of mental functions (including intellectual Impairment or retardation; conversion disorder; dementia; learning impairments)
- skin diseases
- sleep related movement disorders
- hypermobility of joints
- low muscle tone or hypotonia
- epilepsy
- respiratory conditions
- fatigue as in fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalitis
- vertigo or dizziness
- internal organ dysfunction or absence
- IBSA Class B3, and B4
- cardiac/circulatory conditions
- hearing impairment
- pain
- Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy or Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

15.2 Grade Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated to an Athlete where the Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a Para-Equestrian.

15.3 The Athlete has no right to have the determination from 15.1 reviewed. This does not affect the Athlete's right to make an Appeal (Refer Section 25)

15.4 Where an Athlete is allocated Grade NE, it is not inferred that the Athlete does not have any Impairment.

15.5 If a Classification Panel allocates Grade Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be reviewed by a second Classification Panel. This must take place as soon as is practicable. Pending any such second assessment, the Athlete will be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) and designated Grade Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.

15.6 If a second Classification Panel allocates Grade Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, or if the Athlete declines the opportunity for a second Athlete Evaluation, Grade Status Confirmed (C) will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Event or in any future Events.

- 15.7 A National Federation may request that an Athlete with Grade Not Eligible (NE) with Grade Status Confirmed (C) undertakes Athlete Evaluation, but only by way of a Medical Review Request as defined in Section 14.

## **16. ELIGIBILITY FOR MULTIPLE GRADES ACROSS PARA-EQUESTRIAN SPORT**

- 16.1 An Athlete can only hold one Grade per discipline at a time within a Para-Equestrian sport.
- 16.2 Where an Athlete is competing in Para Dressage (five Grades available) and Para Driving (two Grades available) the Athlete may be eligible to hold different Grades across the two sports.

## **17. ATHLETE EVALUATION AT A NON-COMPETITION VENUE**

- 17.1 Athlete Evaluation may take place at a place and/or time other than at an FEI Event in order to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a Classification Panel and be allocated a Grade. Such a place is referred to as a 'Non-Competition Venue'.
- 17.2 Where the FEI decides to make Athlete Evaluation available at a Non-Competition Venue it must (on reasonable notice) advise National Federations:
- 17.2.1 As to the location of the Non-Competition Venue and the date upon which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available;
  - 17.2.2 The sports in respect of which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available; and
  - 17.2.3 The scope and extent of Athlete Evaluation at the Non-Competition Venue and how it may differ from Athlete Evaluation undertaken by a Classification Panel at an Event, if at all. For example, an Athlete may only be allocated with a Grade with Grade Status Review (R).
- 17.3 Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue must be undertaken in a manner that complies with the IPC Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the IPC Classification Code.
- 17.4 The FEI must ensure that a National Federation has an opportunity to make a Protest in respect of a Grade allocated by a Classification Panel at a Non-Competition Venue. A Protest Panel at the Non-Competition Venue must handle this Protest, failing this the relevant Athlete must be allocated a Grade and designated with Grade Status Review (R) and the Protest resolved at the earliest available opportunity (which may be at another Non-Competition Venue).

- 17.5 If the allocation of a Grade is subject to an Observation Assessment, the FEI will advise National Federations prior to any Athlete Evaluation taking place at a Non-Competition Venue that a Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue may conclude that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation Assessment.
- 17.6 The FEI will specify the consequences if a Classification Panel undertakes Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue and concludes that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation Assessment.

## **18. REMOTE ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT**

- 18.1 The FEI may assess whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment in circumstances where the Athlete is not physically present. Remote Assessment will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments

## **19. FEI PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSIFICATION DOCUMENTATION**

- 19.1 Classification Data only which is relevant and necessary for the Classification process will be stored and maintained by the FEI to meet the standard as described in the IPC Classification Code.
- 19.2 Storage and use of Classification Data will meet any National Laws for data protection for that country where the data is stored. In some instances, it may be necessary to process Classification Data without the Athlete's consent but this will be done consistent with national Laws.
- 19.3 The FEI will process Classification Data in order to conduct Classification if such processing is fair and necessary.
- 19.4 The FEI will endeavour to ensure all Classification Data processed is accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.
- 19.5 Consent must be obtained from the Athlete in order to process Classification Data. An Athlete shall sign the FEI Consent for Classification Form prior to undergoing Athlete Evaluation. An Athlete who does not consent in this way cannot be evaluated or allocated a Grade.
- 19.6 The FEI will share Classification Data with other Classification organisations when it is for the purpose of Classification.
- 19.7 The FEI will only share Classification Data with third parties other than Classification organisations in accordance with National Laws and the IPC Classification Code.
- 19.8 Athletes may request in writing to the FEI, through their NF, a copy of relevant Classification Data held by the FEI and expect a reply within a reasonable time frame.

- 19.9 The FEI will wherever possible process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom the Classification Data relates.
- 19.10 If an Athlete cannot provide informed consent (for example, because of age or mental capacity) the Athlete's legal representative, guardian or other competent representative may give consent on the Athlete's behalf.
- 19.11 If for any reason an Athlete is unable to provide consent the FEI will process Classification Data if that processing complies with any National Laws to which the FEI is subject. For example, in the context of an investigation into potential misconduct by an Athlete.
- 19.12 The FEI will notify Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel who provide Classification Data as to:
- The identity of the Classification organisation collecting the Classification Data;
  - The Classification Data to be processed;
  - How Classification Data will be used and how long it may be retained.
- 19.13 The notification to Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel of the information referred to in Article 19.12 may be withheld if providing the information might compromise an on-going or imminent investigation into an act of misconduct associated with Classification.
- 19.14 The FEI will provide the above information in an easily comprehensible and accessible manner to National Federations, Athletes and support personnel.
- 19.15 The FEI will protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and take reasonable steps to ensure that any Third Party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with the IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection.
- 19.16 The FEI will not disclose Classification Data to other Classification organisations except where such disclosures are related to Classification conducted by other such Classification Organisations and the disclosure is consistent with all applicable National Laws.
- 19.17 The FEI may disclose Classification Data to third parties other than Classification organisations only if the disclosure is in accordance with the IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection and permitted by National Laws.
- 19.18 The FEI will retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order to carry out their Classification duties in relation to any individual Athlete.

## 20. ACCESS RIGHTS TO FEI CLASSIFICATION DATA

20.1 Athletes may request from the FEI, through their National Federation:

- Confirmation of whether or not the FEI processes Classification Data relating to them and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- A copy of the relevant Classification Data held by the FEI. If such a copy is requested it will be provided within a reasonable timeframe.

20.2 A request made pursuant to Article 20.1 may be made by a National Federation on an Athlete's behalf.

## 21. THE FEI CLASSIFICATION MASTER LIST

21.1 The FEI is responsible for maintaining the FEI Classification Master List, with relevant details only, for each Para Dressage and Para Driving with the guidance of the Classification Working group. Both are available on the FEI website.

[About Para-Equestrian Dressage | FEI](#)

[About Para-Equestrian Driving | FEI](#)

21.2 On completion of the Athlete Evaluation, including the provision of all required medical documentation as required, the Athlete will be notified in writing of the interim result from their Athlete Evaluation.

21.3 The interim result will remain current until the specified valid to date or the Athlete's Classification result has been approved by the FEI Classification Working Group and added to or updated on the FEI Classification Master List. The written notification will be signed by the Chief Classifier and detail the following:

- The Athlete's Profile, Grade and Grade Status.
- The standard compensating aids the Athlete is allowed for FEI Para-Equestrian Events.
- Valid to date, this may be for that Event only or for a longer period if the Athlete's next Event is within a short timeframe, for example, the following week.

21.4 The Chief Classifier for the Event will complete and send all Athlete Evaluation documentation to the FEI within two weeks of the completion of the Event.

21.5 The FEI Classification Working Group will review the documentation and results and determine if the results can be added to the FEI Classification Master List for the relevant Para – equestrian discipline or further information is required before approval.

21.6 The FEI add to or amend the Athlete's details on the relevant FEI Classification Master List once approved by the Classification Working Group.

21.7 The FEI will make available to the Head of Classification and Chief Classifiers an excel copy of the relevant FEI Classification Master List on request prior to an Event or at other times as required.



## 22. ORGANISING CLASSIFICATION AT PARA-EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

### 22.1 Invitation from the OC to the members of the Classification Panel

- 22.1.1 Classifiers are FEI Officials and are invited by the OC of the Event and must be approved by the FEI. A list of accredited FEI Classifiers is maintained by the FEI and available on the FEI website.
- 22.1.2 The OC must provide a written invitation to the members of the Classification Panel well in advance and include confirmation of:
- The date and venue of the Event
  - Travel to and from the venue, including daily travel to and from the venue
  - Accommodation arrangements which should be with other Officials such as the Judges
  - The undertaking by the OC to meet all expenses incurred by Classifiers, either by providing the facilities or by paying all their relevant costs. The expenses must cover return travel from the Classifier's home to the Event venue, accommodation, all transport and subsistence at the venue to a reasonable standard and any other essential expenses
  - The dates and times of the Classification process;
  - The date the Classifier is expected to arrive and leave of the Event.
- 22.1.3 The members of the Classification Panel will respond without delay in writing to confirm acceptance or otherwise.
- 22.1.4 The Classification Panel are required to be present 24 hours prior to the competition draw taking place to complete Athlete Evaluations for New or Review/Review- Fixed Review Date competing Athletes. Any change to this should be negotiated between the OC and the Chief Classifier.
- 22.1.5 The Classification Panel should remain at the Event to complete any Observation assessments during the first appearance of Athletes.
- 22.1.6 Arrival and departure dates may need to be negotiated beyond that discussed above dependent on the number of Athletes requiring Evaluation and the number of non-competing Athletes requiring Evaluation for the purpose of FEI Classification.

### 22.2 Athlete Evaluation facilities to be organised by the OC for the purpose of Classification

- 22.2.1 A room must be made available to the Classification Panel for the sole purpose of Athlete evaluation and should fulfil the following requirements:
- Private and clean.
  - Wheelchair accessible, that is, ramped with no steps.
  - Large enough to accommodate the two Classifiers, the Athlete (who may be in a wheelchair) and the Athlete's representative.
  - Equipped with a height adjustable examination table with a pillow; four sturdy chairs (without arms or wheels) and a table or desk

- Clean handwashing facilities.
- A climate controlled space (air conditioned where possible) is recommended if the Classification Panel is required to work in extreme temperatures.
- Access to a power supply in the room for electronic devices.
- A lockable area where confidential files and computers can be stored.
- An appropriate waiting area located near the Classification room.
- Signage indicating the location of the Classification room.

22.3 The Classification Panel shall have access to administration facilities such as photocopying and provided with communiqués such as start lists, results and other information for Officials.

22.4 A private area is to be provided nearby the Competition arena for the Classification Panel to view the Athletes in Competition.

#### 22.5 Scheduling Athlete Evaluation

22.5.1 The OC is responsible for scheduling Athlete Evaluation in consultation with the Chief Classifier for the Event.

22.5.2 A fee of 40 Euros (or equivalent) can be asked for each FEI Classification completed for Athletes not previously FEI Classified or Athletes with Confirmed Status who have requested a re-Classification through the FEI Medical Review request process, competing and non-competing, with all money being paid to the OC or other nominated body such as the NF.

22.5.3 No fee is to be asked for Athletes undergoing Review or Review-Fixed Review Date evaluation.

22.5.4 All competing Athletes with New or Review Grade status or those with Confirmed status, who have been approved for re-Classification, must undergo Evaluation before the competition draw takes place, allowing time for the Classifiers to complete all associated tasks, notify the OC of any changes to Grade status and relevant Officials of any compensating aids to be used.

22.5.5 After the closing date of entries, the OC shall send to the nominated Chief Classifier a list of all entered Athletes, their nation, listed Profile number and Grade.

22.5.6 The Chief Classifier is to request an excel copy of the current FEI Classification Master List from the FEI to cross reference with the list of entered Athletes. Once confirmed, the Chief Classifiers will inform the OC of any Review Athletes requiring evaluation. The compensating aids allowed for each Athlete will also be checked and sent to the OC.

22.5.7 The OC is required to circulate a list of all entered Athletes, their Profile and Grade to the TD, Chief Steward and Judges.

- 22.5.8 The OC is responsible to schedule all necessary Athlete Evaluations to take place before the draw takes place. Adequate meal times and breaks must be scheduled for the Classification Panel.
- 22.5.9 At least forty-five minutes should be designated for each evaluation. The Chief Classifier should inform the OC if they think a longer session may be required for an Athlete.
- 22.5.10 The OC will inform the Athlete's NF of the date and time of the Athlete's scheduled Evaluation prior to the Event, or immediately upon their arrival at the Event.
- 22.5.11 It is the responsibility of the Athlete's NF to ensure their Athlete arrives for their scheduled evaluation on time with any necessary documentation if not already provided to the FEI and requested by the Classification Panel for that Event.
- 22.5.12 If an Observation Assessment in Competition is required for the Athlete, the time and place are to be agreed upon by the Athlete, the OC, the Athlete's NF, the Technical (if required) and the Classification Panel.
- 22.5.13 The Chief Classifier will communicate the results of Athlete Evaluations to the OC and NF as soon as possible following the completion of the Athlete Evaluation.

### **23. PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSIFICATION PROTEST PROCEDURE**

- 23.1 The FEI will implement provisions relating to the making and subsequent resolution of a Protest and an Appeal that are consistent with the IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals.
- 23.2 The term "Protest" used in this Manual refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Grade is made and subsequently resolved.
- 23.3 A Protest may be made in respect of the allocation of a Grade to an Athlete. No Protest may be made in respect of the designation of an Athlete's Grade Status.
- 23.4 A Protest cannot be made in respect of the allocation to an Athlete of Grade Not Eligible (NE).
- 23.5 Where the FEI is responsible for allocating a Grade, the FEI must resolve any Protest made in respect of that Grade.
- 23.6 The FEI will work to resolve the Protest in a manner that minimises the impact on Competition participation, Competition schedules and results.

#### **General Principles for Handling Protests**

- 23.7 Protests should be only submitted by the FEI or the National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef d'Equipe) at the Event.

23.8 An Athlete's Grade should generally only be Protested once, with the exception of Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances (as set out in this Manual).

23.9 A Protest in respect of a Grade allocated by the FEI may only be resolved by the FEI.

23.10 A Protest should, in principle, not be resolved by the Classification Panel that was involved in the allocation of the Grade that is being Protested, except if a Protest is submitted on a date 12 months or more after the most recent allocation of the Grade. In that case, the Classifiers involved with the original allocation may be part of the Protest Panel.

23.11 Submission of Protests

23.11.1 Protests shall generally be submitted during Competitions. For Out-of-Competition Protest refer to article 23.20 below.

23.12 Protest opportunities and procedures– National Federations

23.12.1 A National Federation may make a Protest on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete must not make a Protest without the authorisation of the National Federation.

23.12.2 The National Federation making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are complied with.

23.12.3 A National Federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Grade Class of any Athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another National Federation. If a National Federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Grade Class allocated to such an Athlete it may request the FEI to make a Protest.

23.12.4 A National Federation may make a Protest at an Event. This must be no later than 60 minutes after Classification Panel decision regarding the Athlete's Grade.

23.12.5 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment by way of First Appearance, a National Federation may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before the First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

23.12.6 If the Protest is made before First Appearance, the Athlete will not be able to compete at all until the Protest is resolved.

23.12.6.1 A National Body Protest must be made by way of the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form which includes:

- The name and of the Protested Athlete;
- The details of the Protested decision and/or a copy of the Protested decision;
- A reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body believes that the Protested decision is flawed;
- A 'Protest Fee' of CHF150 or equivalent

23.12.7 All documents and other evidence referred to in the FEI Classification Protest Form must be submitted with the Protest Form, or as soon as is reasonably practicable following the submission of the Protest Form.

23.12.8 The Protest Form, supporting explanation and documentation, and any prescribed fee, must be submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant Event no later than 60 minutes after the notification of the result from the Athlete Evaluation during the Classification Evaluation period. Upon receipt of the Protest Form and the information and/or documentation the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest.

23.12.9 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the National Federation as soon as is practicable. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.

23.12.10 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frame for re-submitting a Protest is within 60 minutes of the decision to decline.

23.12.11 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures the Protest must be accepted. If the Protest is accepted:

23.12.11.1 The Protested Athlete's Grade Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Grade Status shall be retained or amended as or to Grade Status Review (R) as appropriate;

23.12.11.2 Subject to Article 23.15 the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which must be if practicable at the Event the Protest was made.

23.12.11.3 The Head of Classification and/or 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.

### 23.13 Protest opportunities and procedures– The FEI

23.13.1 The FEI may make a Protest in respect of the Grade Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.

23.13.2 The FEI may make a Protest if it has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Grade Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.

23.13.3 The Head of Classification of the FEI will advise the relevant National Federation at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is to be made.

23.13.4 The Head of Classification will provide the National Federation with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification believes that the Protest is justified.

23.13.5 Where the FEI makes a Protest:

23.13.6 A Protested Athlete's Grade Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Grade Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Grade Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;

23.13.7 A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

23.13.8 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of the FEI at an Event if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.

### 23.14 Resolving a Protest (subject to Article 23.15)

23.14.1 A Protest Panel must not include any person who:

23.14.1.1 Was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or

23.14.1.2 Any person who has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision. Before the twelve (12) months period, if a National Federation is comfortable with such a person being part of Classification Panel, it may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person.

- 23.14.2 The Head of Classification will supply all documentation submitted with the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Head of Classification will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 23.14.3 The Protest Panel will conduct the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel may make enquires of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.
- 23.14.4 The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Grade Class and designate a Grade Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 23.14.5 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further National Federation Protest.

#### 23.15 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 23.15.1 If a Protest is made at an Event where there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Event:
- 23.15.1.1 The Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete within the Grade Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;
- 23.15.1.2 All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

#### 23.16 Special Provisions

- 23.16.1 The FEI may make arrangements for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to take place at a place and at a time away from an Event in accordance with the section regarding Athlete Evaluation.
- 23.16.2 If the FEI makes provision for Sport Classes to be allocated in this way it must specify how, when and if a Protest may be made in respect of such Sport Classes.
- a) Athletes with Grade Status C may only be Protested by the FEI Head Classifier or by the FEI Chief Classifier under Exceptional Circumstances (see article 23.17.)
- b) The regulations with regard to Athletes with Grade Status "Not Eligible" are outlined in this Manual.

Table 1 below indicates the Protests that are possible during Competitions and Out-of-Competition.

<b>ATHLETES GRADE STATUS</b>	<b>Protest made by the National Federation in respect to an Athlete under its jurisdiction</b>	<b>Protest made by the FEI in respect to an Athlete under its jurisdiction</b>
<b>New (N)</b>	YES	YES
<b>Review (R)</b>	YES	YES
<b>Confirmed (C)</b>	NO	<u>Only</u> in Exceptional Circumstances

### 23.17 Exceptional Circumstances

23.17.1 Exceptional Circumstances, for the purpose of this Manual, will arise if the FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier believe that an Athlete's Confirmed (C) Grade no longer reflects that Athlete's ability to compete equitably within that Grade.

23.17.2 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 Grade.
- An error made by the International accredited Para-Equestrian Classifier(s), which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Grade which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability.
- Grade allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent Classification.

23.17.3 The FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier shall notify the relevant National Federation and the Athlete that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances and provide a written summary to explain why the Protest is being made.

23.17.4 The Athlete's Grade Status shall be amended to Review (R) Status with immediate effect.

23.17.5 A Protest made in Exceptional Circumstances shall follow the same process detailed in Article 23. The FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier is not required to pay the Protest Fee specified.



## 23.18 PROTEST PROCEDURES - Protest submission during Competitions

- 23.18.1 The FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier is the person authorised to receive any Protest.
- 23.18.2 Protests must be submitted to the FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier no later than 60 minutes after the Classification Panel's decision regarding the Athlete's Grade..
- 23.18.3 Protests must be submitted in English on the official Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form should include, at minimum, the following:
- a) The name, date and location of the Event/Competition.
  - b) Time of delivering the Protest.
  - c) The name, title, country and signature of the person submitting the Protest.
  - d) The name and nation of the Athlete whose Grade is being Protested.
  - e) Details of the Decision being Protested.
  - f) The reason for the Protest.
  - g) Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest.
  - h) A fee of CHF 150 (one hundred fifty Swiss Francs) or equivalent.
- 23.18.4 Upon receipt of the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form, the FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine whether all necessary information is included. If it appears to the FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier that the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier shall dismiss the Protest and notify all relevant parties.
- 23.18.5 If the Protest is accepted, the FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier shall notify all relevant parties of the time and date for any subsequent Protest evaluation.

## 23.19 Protest Panel during Competition

- 23.19.1 The FEI Head Classifier or FEI Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct an evaluation of the Athlete. The Protest Panel shall consist of at minimum the same number of Para-Equestrian Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade.
- 23.19.2 Members of the Protest Panel should ideally have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 12 months prior to the Protest being submitted.

- 23.19.3 All documentation submitted with the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. The Protest Panel should conduct the Protest evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the Athlete's most recent Grade.
- 23.19.4 The Protest Panel may make limited enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest panel to complete the Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner. Additionally, the Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Grade.
- 23.19.5 All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Decision in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation of the International Paralympic Committee (available at [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)).
- 23.19.6 If a Protest is made and accepted at an Event, but it is not possible to appoint a Protest Panel at the Event the following will apply:
- a) If the Athlete has been allocated Grade Status Confirmed (C), it will be amended to Review (R).
  - b) The Athlete will be required to compete in his or her current Grade, pending the resolution of the Protest
  - c) The FEI will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity which may be at the next Event where the Athlete is competing and International Classification is offered.
- 23.19.7 In all instances, the impact of the Athlete changing Grade after the resolution of a Protest during Competition is defined in the FEI Para-Equestrian Rules.

## 23.20 PROTEST PROCEDURES - Protest submission Out of Competitions

- 23.20.1 Out of Competition means a Protest that is not submitted as per Article 23.12.8.
- 23.20.2 The FEI Head Classifier is the person authorised to receive any Protest.
- 23.20.3 Protests must be submitted in English on the official Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form available on the FEI website. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form should include, at minimum, the following:
- a) The name, title, country and signature of the person submitting the Protest.
  - b) The name and nation of the Athlete whose Grade is being Protested.
  - c) Details of the Decision being Protested.
  - d) The reason for the Protest.
  - e) Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest.
  - f) A fee of CHF 150 (one hundred fifty Swiss Francs) or equivalent.

- 23.20.4 Upon receipt of the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form, the FEI Head Classifier shall conduct a review to determine whether all necessary information is included. If it appears to the FEI Head Classifier that the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the FEI Head Classifier shall dismiss the Protest and notify all relevant parties.
- 23.20.5 If the Protest is accepted, the FEI Head Classifier shall notify all relevant parties within 28 days of receipt of the Protest of the time and date for any subsequent Protest Evaluation.

#### 23.21 Protest Panel for Protests submitted out of Competition

- 23.21.1 The FEI Head Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct an evaluation of the Athlete. The Protest Panel shall consist of at minimum the same number of Para-Equestrian Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade.
- 23.21.2 Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 12 months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 23.21.3 All documentation submitted with the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. The Protest Panel should conduct the Protest evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the Athlete's most recent Grade.
- 23.21.4 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Grade.
- 23.21.5 All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Decision in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation of the International Paralympic Committee.

Each Party should bear their own costs of the process

## 24. THE PROTEST PATHWAY

The following section describes the various stages of a Protest conducted during Competition. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organisation and handling of a Protest.

<p><b>Step 1.</b> <b>Pre-Competition Tasks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate details on the Protest Procedures to all relevant NFs and NPCs</li> <li>• Make available the Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form</li> <li>• Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Protests should be submitted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 2.</b> <b>Protest Submission in accordance with the Rules of the FEI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form submitted by the appropriate person</li> <li>• Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Para-Equestrian Classification Manual - Classification Protest Form</li> <li>• Payment of the Protest Fee</li> <li>• All documents need to be submitted to the FEI Head Classifier or Chief Classifier for the relevant Event/Competition</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 3.</b> <b>Protest Submission Review</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FEI Head Classifier and/or Chief Classifier reviews the submission</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 4.</b> <b>Decision by the FEI Head Classifier and/or Chief Classifier</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If rejected: Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason(s) for rejection</li> <li>• If the Protest is accepted: proceed with <b>Step 5</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 5.</b> <b>Preparation of Protest Resolution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier will:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appoint a Protest Panel</li> <li>○ Advise all relevant parties about when, where and how the Protest will be handled</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 6.</b> <b>Protest Resolution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Classification Protest Panel will:</li> <li>• Review of all documentation and information</li> <li>• Conduct the Athlete evaluation</li> <li>• Allocate of the Athlete to a Grade</li> <li>• Advise the Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier as to the resolution of the Protest</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 7.</b> <b>Administrative follow-up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier will:</li> <li>• Advise all parties involved as to the outcome of the Protest, providing, if requested, a written explanation for its Decision</li> <li>• Communicate the Decision to the relevant FEI Sports Department, to the Organiser and to all other relevant parties to ensure the continuation of the Event/Competition</li> <li>• The FEI will update the FEI Classification Master List</li> </ul>

#### 24.1 Protest procedure during the Paralympic Games

If applicable, the submission of Protests shall be in accordance with the provisions of the IPC International Standards of Protest and Appeals as amended by the Classification Guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.

### 25. PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSIFICATION APPEAL PROCESS

25.1 If a National Federation believes that the FEI in the course of applying its Classification Manual has made an unfair decision, it may apply by way of an Appeal to have that decision set aside.

25.2 The term “Appeal” as used in this Manual refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

25.3 The term “Appellant” as used in this Manual refers to the party submitting the Appeal on behalf of the Athlete.

25.4 The term “Respondent” used in this Manual refers to the FEI, as being responsible for the procedures and Decision which are being appealed to.

25.5 A decision will be considered unfair if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in the Classification Manual and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it must be set aside.

25.6 The Appeal Body for the hearing and resolution of Appeals.

25.6.1 An Appeal Body should consist of two FEI Classifiers and a member of FEI Para-Equestrian Technical Committee. The Appeal Body is appointed by the FEI. The FEI will also appoint the Chair of the Appeal Body.

25.6.2 An Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review Classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Grade allocation procedures have been followed.
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

25.6.3 No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of the Grade or Grade Status. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a Classification Decision by allocating an Athlete a new Grade and/or Grade Status.

25.6.4 The Appeal Body shall hear Appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have been exhausted.

- 25.6.5 The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant decision must be upheld, or to set the decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any decision and in particular has no power to amend a Grade or Grade Status.
- 25.6.6 The Appeal Body will only review the process by which these decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been fair and in accordance with the Classification Manual.
- 25.6.7 The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.

## 25.7 Appeal Process

- 25.7.1 A National Federation may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to the FEI. A Notice of Appeal should be submitted to the FEI by e-mail or ordinary mail. The FEI shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the opposing party.
- 25.7.2 A Notice of Appeal must:
  - 25.7.2.1 Be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being complained of unless the FEI agrees otherwise;
  - 25.7.2.2 Specify the party who is requesting the Appeal (the Appellant).
  - 25.7.2.3 Provide the name and nation of the Athlete whose Grade or Grade Status is the subject of the Appeal.
  - 25.7.2.4 Identify the decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;
  - 25.7.2.5 Specify the grounds for the Appeal;
  - 25.7.2.6 Indicate what, or that all, remedies have been used to resolve the case.
  - 25.7.2.7 Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;
  - 25.7.2.8 To the extent possible, identify the person or persons responsible for the Decision being appealed against ("the Respondent").
  - 25.7.2.9 Be submitted with the fee of CHF 500 (Five hundred Swiss Francs) or equivalent. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.
- 25.7.3 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, the FEI must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.

- 25.7.4 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if all other available remedies have not been exhausted, the FEI shall issue a written Decision dismissing the Appeal.
- 25.7.5 If a National Federation could have made a Protest in respect of the allocation of a Grade, but fails to do so, it cannot make any Appeal if it was aware of the grounds upon which it wishes to make an Appeal at the time that it could have made a Protest. An Appeal may be made if a National Federation becomes aware of such grounds after the time frames for making a Protest have expired.
- 25.7.6 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.
- 25.7.7 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, the FEI shall:
- 25.7.7.1 Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purpose of hearing the Appeal.
  - 25.7.7.2 Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (The Opposing Party).
  - 25.7.7.3 Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving the Notice of Appeal submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence, and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the Appeal.
  - 25.7.7.4 Set a Hearing location and date: The Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

## 25.8 Appeal Hearing

- 25.8.1 The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.
- 25.8.2 The Appeal Body may designate counsel to assist it in the Hearing.
- 25.8.3 The FEI, and the relevant parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel and if necessary to engage an interpreter.
- 25.8.4 Not more than two representatives of any party excluding the Athlete and any interpreter shall be entitled to participate in the Hearing.
- 25.8.5 Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the Appeal Body's discretion) to call witnesses.

25.8.6 Each Party should bear their own costs of the process.

## 25.9 Appeal Decision

- 25.9.1 As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or set aside the decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its decision.
- 25.9.2 If the Appeal Body sets aside a decision it may if appropriate make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by the FEI in light of that decision.
- 25.9.3 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal. The Appeal Body shall issue a written Decision resolving any Appeal after the Hearing. The Decision shall be provided to all parties, to the FEI and to the relevant National Federation(s). The Event organising committee shall be also informed about the outcome of the Appeal (in the case of Appeals conducted in connection with an Event).
- 25.9.4 The FEI shall be responsible for ensuring the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

## 25.10 Confidentiality

- 25.10.1 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal:
- i. Employees or agents of a party.
  - ii. Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on Appeal.
  - iii. Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the Appeal.
- 25.10.2 The Appeal Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any individual refusing to sign such a statement may be excluded from the Hearing.



## 26. THE APPEAL PATHWAY

The following section describes the various stages of an Appeal-process. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organisation and handling of an Appeal.

<b>Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate details on Appeal Procedures to all relevant NFs</li> <li>• Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Appeals should be submitted</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2. Submission of a Notice of Appeal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal Form submitted by the appropriate person</li> <li>• Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Appeal Form</li> <li>• Payment of the Appeal Fee</li> <li>• All documents need to be submitted to the FEI</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3. Appeal Submission Review by the FEI</b>	
<b>Step 4. Decision over the Appeal Submission by the FEI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If rejected: FEI should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason(s) for rejection</li> <li>• If accepted: proceed with step 5</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5. Notification of all relevant parties</b>	
<b>Step 6. Preparation of the Appeal Hearing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up of an Appeal Hearing Body</li> <li>• Notification of Appeal Hearing to all relevant parties</li> </ul>
<b>Step 7. Appeal Hearing</b>	
<b>Step 8. Appeal Decision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicated in writing</li> </ul>
<b>Step 9. Administrative follow-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEI to communicate the outcome of the Appeal</li> <li>• Update Classification Master List (if applicable)</li> <li>• Review Classification Rules (if applicable)</li> </ul>

## 27. APPLICATION DURING MAJOR EVENTS

### 27.1 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests and Appeals

- 27.1.1 The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement the International Standard to operate during the Paralympic Games. The FEI may also issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement this Manual to operate during specified Events under their own jurisdiction.

## **28. INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

28.1.1 Intentional Misrepresentation will arise in the following circumstances-

- a) Evaluation Intentional Misrepresentation where the Athlete intentionally misrepresents his or her skills, abilities and/or the degree or nature of their physical or visual Impairment during the Athlete Evaluation with the intent of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel
- b) Post Evaluation Intentional Misrepresentation where the Athlete has been allocated a Grade Status of Confirmed (C).As a result of Medical Intervention or for other reasons, the Athlete demonstrates a change in their skills, abilities or the degree of their Impairment and the Athlete fails to provide details of the Medical Intervention to the FEI.
- c) Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation where an Athlete or Athlete support person assists in the directive of any Intentional Misrepresentation will himself or herself be guilty of an act of Intentional Misrepresentation.

28.1.2 The investigation of any allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation shall be undertaken by the FEI in accordance with the FEI General Regulations (Article 161 – FEI Tribunal).

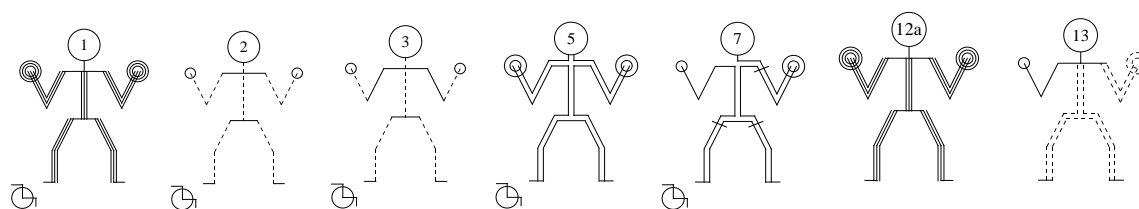
## 29. GRADES AND PROFILES FOR ATHLETES: PARA- EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE

— Normal function or minimal disadvantage	⊥ Absence of limb	--- Paresis or incoordinate
- - - Paresis	≡ Incoordinate	~ ~ ~ Deformity
	≡≡≡ Severely incoordinate	♿ Wheelchair user

### Grade I Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade I have severe impairments affecting all limbs and trunk. The Athlete usually requires the use of a wheelchair. They may be able to walk with an unsteady gait. Trunk and balance are severely impaired.

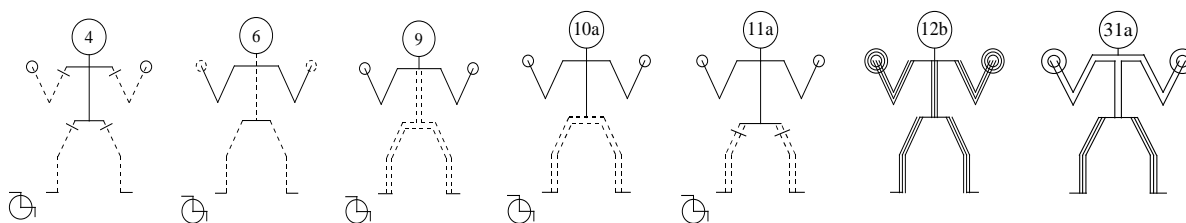
Profiles: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12a, 13



### Grade II Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade II have either a severe impairment of the trunk and minimal impairment of the upper limbs or moderate impairment of the trunk, upper and lower limbs. Most Athletes in this Grade use a wheelchair in daily life.

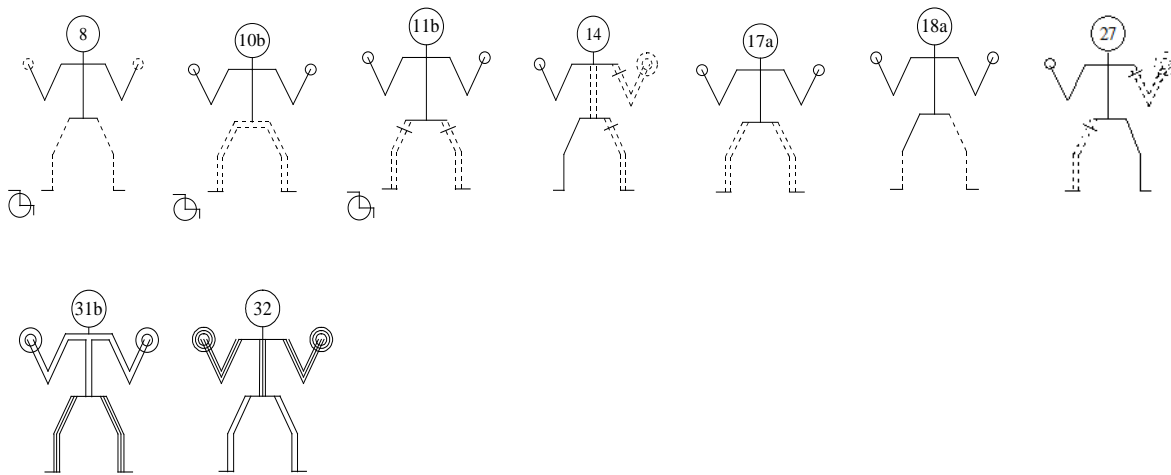
Profiles: 4, 6, 9, 10a, 11a, 12b, 31a



### Grade III Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade III have severe impairments in both lower limbs with minimal or no impairment of the trunk or moderate impairment of the upper and lower limbs and trunk. Some Athletes in this Grade may use a wheelchair in daily life.

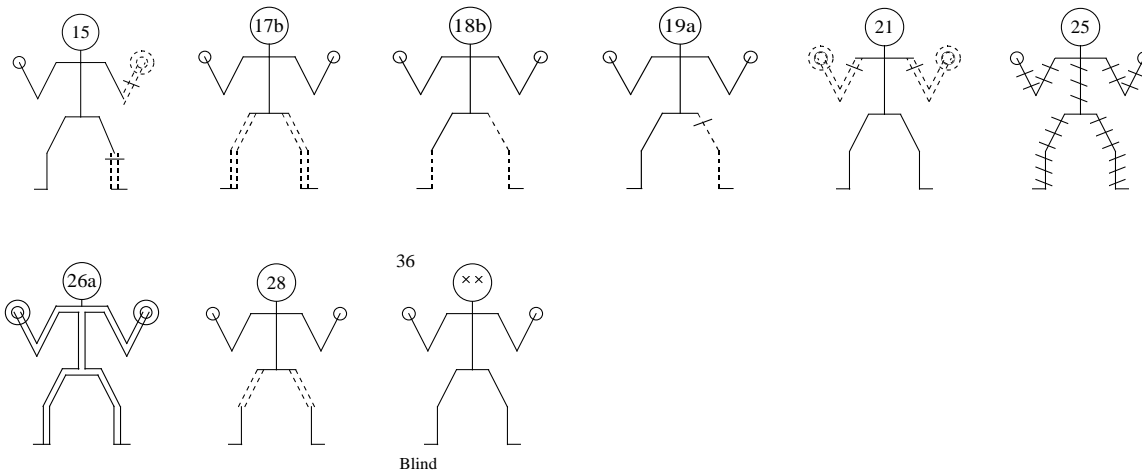
Profiles: 8, 10b, 11b, 14, 17a, 18a, 27, 31b, 32



### Grade IV Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade IV have a severe impairment or deficiency of both upper limbs or a moderate impairment of all four limbs or short stature. Athletes in Grade IV are able to walk and generally do not require a wheelchair in daily life. Grade IV also includes Athletes having a visual impairment equivalent to B1 with very low visual acuity and/or no light perception.

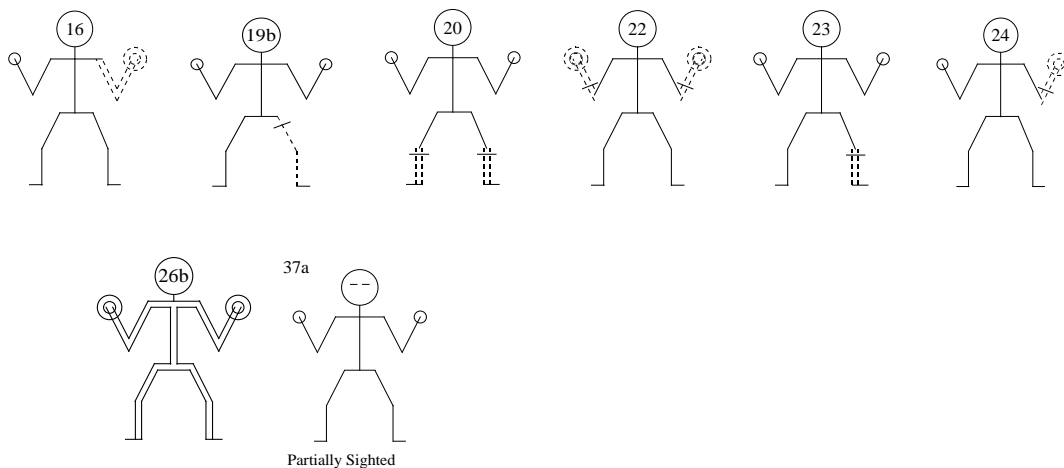
Profiles: 15, 17b, 18b, 19a, 21, 25, 26a, 28, 36



## Grade V Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade V have a mild impairment of movement or muscle strength or a deficiency of one limb or mild deficiency of two limbs. Grade V also includes Athletes with visual impairment equivalent to B2 with a higher visual acuity than visually impaired Athletes competing in Grade IV and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees radius.

Profiles: 16, 19b, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26b, 37a



## Not Eligible

Profiles: 29, 30, 37b, 38, 42, 48, 39

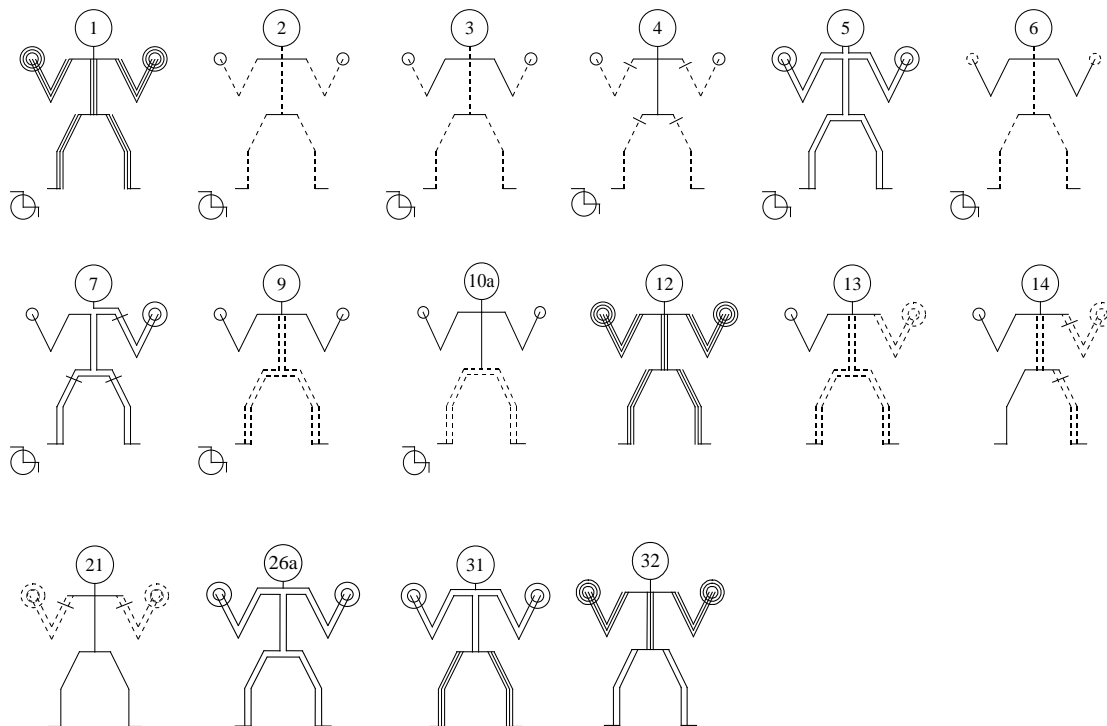
### 30. GRADES AND PROFILES FOR ATHLETES: PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRIVING

— Normal function or minimal disadvantage	+ Absence of limb	== Paresis or incoordinate
- - - Paresis	≡ Incoordinate	≡≡ Deformity
	≡≡≡ Severely incoordinate	♿ Wheelchair user

#### Grade I Para Equestrian Driving

Profiles: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10a, 12a, 12b 13, 14, 21, 26a, 31, 32

This Grade includes a range of impairments including: Moderate to severe Impairment in all four limbs and trunk and who may or may not be able to walk; Moderate to severe Impairment in three limbs and trunk; Severe Impairment in two unilateral limbs and trunk; Severe Impairment in upper limbs and trunk; Severe impairment in upper limbs with mild impairment in lower limbs; Severe Impairment in the upper limbs; Most Athletes in this Grade will use a wheelchair in daily life for some or all mobility.

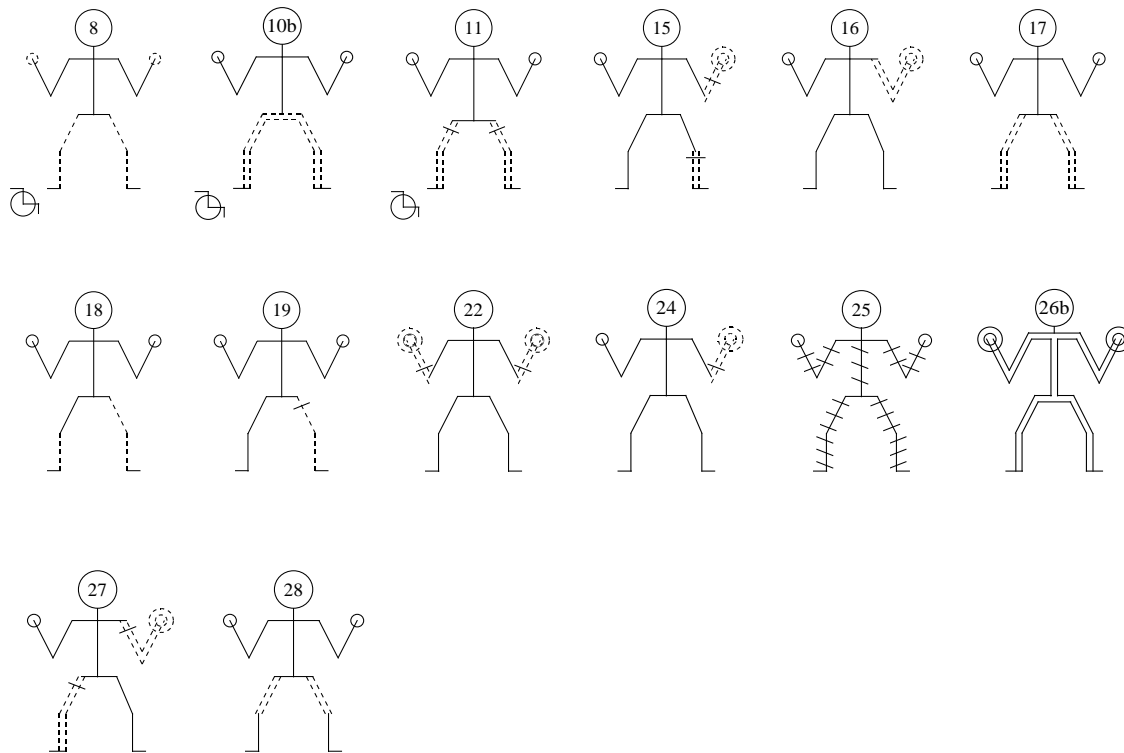


## Grade II Para Equestrian Driving

Profiles: 8, 10b, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26b, 27, 28

This Grade includes a range of impairments including: mild impairment in all four limbs and trunk, severe to moderate impairment in one or two lower limbs; two limbs on the same side; moderate to mild impairment of one or two upper limbs.

Those in this Grade have less Impairment than Grade I and are considered to be functionally disadvantaged against able bodied Drivers.



## Not Eligible

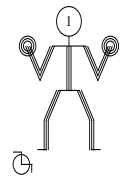
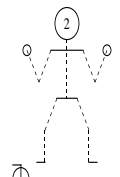
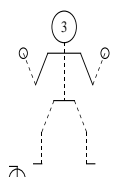
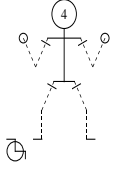
Profiles: 20, 23, 29, 30, 36, 37a, 37b, 38, 39, 42, 48

### 31. PROFILE DEFINITIONS

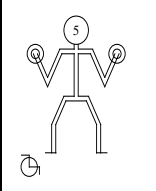
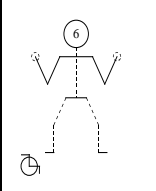
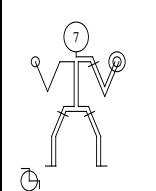
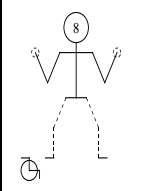
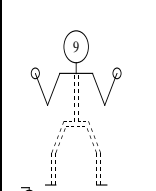
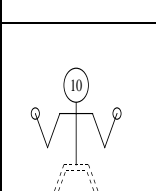
Movement and mobility Impairment:	Profiles 1-32
Sensory Impairment:	Profiles 36-38
Intellectual Impairment:	Profile 39
Other Impairment:	Profile 42
Able Bodied:	Profile 48

#### Guide to Profiles

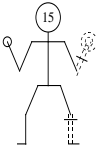
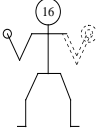
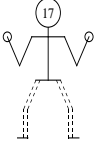
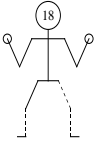
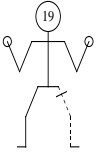
— Normal function or minimal disadvantage	+ Absence of limb	=== Paresis or incoordinate
- - - Paresis	==== Incoordinate	--- Deformity
	===== Severely incoordinate	♿ Wheelchair user

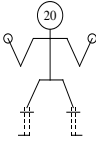
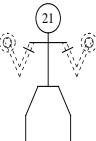
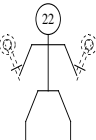
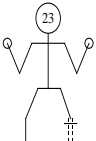

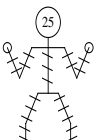
Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
1		I	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis present in all limbs and trunk.</p> <p>Results in little or no use in all four limbs and very poor trunk control.</p> <p>Needs a powered wheelchair or pushed in a manual wheelchair and personal assistant during daily life.</p>
2		I	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia, paresis or impairment present in all limbs and trunk. Poor control of the trunk and almost no use in four limbs but can bend the elbows. Triceps muscle is non-functional against resistance e.g. complete Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) at C5/6 level.</p> <p>May push a manual wheelchair and may need a powered wheelchair for long distances.</p>
3		I	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Moderate hypertonia or athetosis or ataxia present in all limbs and trunk; poor trunk control; very poor balance and inability to grip and release objects. Complete SCI at C6/7 level. The finger flexors, extensors and intrinsic muscles of the hand may be severely impaired</p> <p>Wheelchair user.</p>
4		II	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia, paresis or impairment present in all limbs; absence of all limbs; almost no use in all four limbs but good trunk control. Mainly use their seat to control the movement of the horse. May push a manual wheelchair in some way.</p>

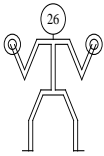
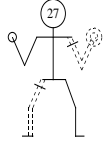
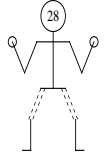
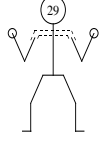
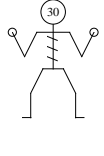
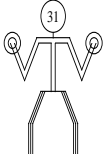


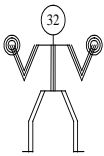
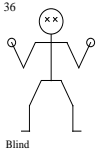
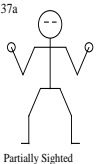
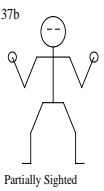
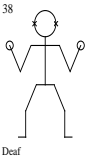
Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
5		I	FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Moderate hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis present in all limbs and trunk; may have moderate trunk control with difficulty; either with arms or legs. Able to push a manual wheelchair with difficulty using arms or legs. Difficulty controlling the limbs in any activity.
6		II	FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Moderate hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis in lower limbs and trunk with poor trunk control. May have a complete SCI at C8/T1 or moderate quadriplegia. Minimal Impairment in upper limbs with mildly weak hands or lack of control in the arms. Wheelchair user.
7		I	THREE LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or limb deficiency of three limbs. Some difficulty with trunk control. One limb may be only minimally affected and has good function. Wheelchair user and may need to use a powered wheelchair.
8		III	FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Moderate to severe hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, or impairment of the lower limbs. Minimal hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, or impairment in upper limbs with slightly weak hands or arms; the intrinsic muscles of hands may be severely affected. Good trunk control. Wheelchair user.
9		II	LOWER LIMBS AND TRUNK REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment present in both lower limbs and trunk. Upper trunk control present but no lower trunk control. Complete SCI at T1 – T5 level. Unable to perform a pelvic tilt. Unable to balance when sitting unsupported. Wheelchair user with good use in arms.
10		II  III	LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment present in both lower limbs and moderate trunk involvement. Complete SCI at T5 – T10 Wheelchair user with good use of arms. <b>10a:</b> Unable to move outside own base of support and total sensory loss below umbilicus. Significant difficulty with balance in sitting. <b>10b:</b> Able to move outside own base of support and able to perform a pelvic tilt with difficulty. Difficulty with trunk control and unable to use hips to assist trunk movement.

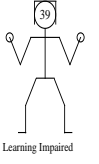
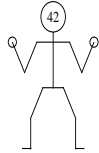
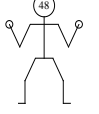


Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
15		IV	<p>IPSILATERAL LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Slight to moderate hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, limb deficiency or impairment in two limbs on the same side of the body. Trunk is involved. Able to walk. Balance on the horse less affected than Profile 14.</p>
16		V	<p>ONE UPPER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe paresis or hypertonia; total limb deficiency of one upper limb.</p>
17		<p>III</p> <p>IV</p>	<p>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in two lower limbs which act more like props. Able to walk with two crutches or sticks.</p> <p><b>17a:</b> No to poor functional pelvic movement. Unable to move out of base of support. Unable to control the horse from the pelvis.</p> <p><b>17b:</b> Fair to normal pelvic movement and control. Able to control the horse from the pelvis.</p>
18		<p>III</p> <p>IV</p>	<p>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in one lower limbs; moderate to slight Impairment of the other lower limb. Able to walk.</p> <p><b>18a:</b> No to poor functional pelvic movement or control. Unable to move out of base of support. Unable to control the horse from the pelvis.</p> <p><b>18b:</b> Fair to normal pelvic movement and control. Able to control the horse from the pelvis.</p>
19		<p>IV</p> <p>V</p>	<p>ONE LOWER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or total limb deficiency of one lower limb which is used as a prop. Able to walk. No impairment present in the other leg.</p> <p><b>19a:</b> An amputee who rides without a prosthesis. Residual limb 6 inches (15cm) or less.</p> <p><b>19b:</b> Paresis or an amputee who rides with a prosthesis. Residual limb longer than 6ins (15cm.) Measured from greater trochanter.</p>

Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
20		V	<p><b>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or total limb deficiency of one lower limb or limb deficiency of part of both lower limbs (50% or less of the lower legs remaining).</p> <p>Able to walk and run.</p>
21		IV	<p><b>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or total limb deficiency of both upper limbs.</p>
22		V	<p><b>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of both arms or limb deficiency of part of both upper limbs -below the elbow. Able to grip reins with or without prosthesis.</p>
23		V	<p><b>ONE LOWER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of one lower limb or total deficiency of one lower limb below the knee with 50% or less of lower leg remaining. May run if fit enough. Amputation through the forefoot is not eligible.</p>
24		V	<p><b>ONE UPPER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of one upper limb or total deficiency of one upper limb below the elbow. Unable to grip rein with one hand.</p>
25		IV	<p><b>FOUR LIMBS AND TRUNK REDUCED IN STATURE:</b> Short stature due to extreme shortness of limbs. To be eligible for Profile 25, an Athlete must be &gt; 18 years of age. Maximum Height of 129cm</p>

Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
26		IV V	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in all four limbs. Balance and gross co-ordination affected.</p> <p><b>26a:</b> As above, trunk impaired.</p> <p><b>26b:</b> As above, trunk less impaired than for 26a.</p>
27		III	<p>TWO CONTRALATERAL LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or total limb deficiency of opposite arm and leg.</p>
28		III	<p>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in both hips and lower spine. Poor or no pelvic control. Difficulty walking and may have a waddling gait.</p>
29		NE	<p>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in both upper limbs-shoulders.</p>
30		NE	<p>TRUNK REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in trunk or neck.</p>
31		II III	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION: Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both lower limbs. Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in both upper limbs. Trunk control fair to moderate. Able to walk.</p> <p><b>31a:</b> Trunk involved, no or poor functional pelvic movement and unable to move out of base of support.</p> <p><b>31b:</b> Trunk less involved with fair to good pelvic control.</p>

Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
32		III	<p>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION - Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both upper limbs.</p> <p>Slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both lower limbs.</p> <p>Trunk impaired. Able to walk.</p>
<b>33-35</b>			AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES
36		IV	<p>TOTALLY BLIND. B1</p> <p>Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60</p> <p>Totally blind. (B1) -no sight in both eyes</p>
37a		V	<p>PARTIAL SIGHT. B2</p> <p>Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 inclusive; and/or Visual field that is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees</p> <p>Partially sighted (B2) Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How far they can see (visual acuity).</li> <li>• How wide they can see (visual field).</li> </ul>
37b		NE	<p>PARTIAL SIGHT. B3</p> <p>Visual acuity ranges from 1.40 to 1.0 inclusive; and/or a visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees</p> <p>Partially sighted (B3) Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How far they can see (visual acuity).</li> <li>• How wide they can see (visual field).</li> </ul>
38		NE	<p>DEAF-Defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB pure tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969 Standard)</p>

Profile	Graphic	Grade	Description
39		NE	Intellectual Impairment. IQ less than 70 and Classified by INAS-FMH
40-41			AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES
42		NE	<p>A HEALTH CONDITION WHICH CANNOT BE MEASURED THROUGH THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS and thereby Not Eligible.</p> <p>Examples of such conditions include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wear and tear on joints due to advancing age</li> <li>- general debilitating disease</li> <li>- obesity</li> <li>- osteochondritis</li> <li>- impairments of mental functions (including intellectual Impairment or retardation; conversion disorder; dementia; learning impairments)</li> <li>- skin diseases</li> <li>- sleep related movement disorders</li> <li>- hypermobility of joints</li> <li>- low muscle tone or hypotonia</li> <li>- epilepsy</li> <li>- respiratory conditions</li> <li>- fatigue as in fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalitis</li> <li>- vertigo or dizziness</li> <li>- internal organ dysfunction or absence</li> <li>- IBSA Class B3, and B4</li> <li>- cardiac/circulatory conditions</li> <li>- hearing impairment</li> <li>- pain</li> <li>- Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy or Complex Regional Pain Syndrome</li> </ul>
43-47			AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES
48		NE	ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE.

## **32. RELEVANT CLASSIFICATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE FEI WEBSITE**

<http://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>

- FEI Classification Request Form
- FEI Consent for Classification Form
- FEI Certificate of Diagnosis
- FEI Request for Medical Review Form
- FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Protest Form
- FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Appeal Form
- Standard and non-standard compensating aids

## **33. APPENDICES**

33.1 Standard compensating aids for Para-Equestrian Dressage

33.2 Standard compensating aids Para-Equestrian Driving




APPENDIX 1

STANDARD COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE																			
Profile	Grade	Voice	Raised pommel or cantle	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Loop reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No stirrups	Electronic communication device	Use of sign language	Callers	Beacon beeper	Commander	
1	I	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
2	I	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
3	I	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
4	II	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
5	I	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
6	II	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
7	I	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
8	III	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
9	II	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
10a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
11a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
12a	I	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
12b	II	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
13	I	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
14	III	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
15	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
16	V	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
17a	III	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
17b	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
18a	III	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
18b	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
19a	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
19b	V	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
20	V	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•						
21	IV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
22	V	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
23	V	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
24	V	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
25	IV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
26a	IV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
26b	V	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•									
27	II	•	•	•	•	•		•					•						
28	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•					•						
31a/b	II/III	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
32	III	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•						
36	IV	•	•	•	•	•		•					•			•	•		
37a	V	•	•	•	•	•		•					•			•	•		
38	N/A	•	•	•	•	•		•					•		•				
39	N/A	•	•	•	•	•		•					•		•				
On Master List	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

As determined through the Classification process and supporting medical documentation

**Standard Compensating Aids Allowed for all Athletes**  
**\*Not to be listed on the FEI Classification Master List**

- Salute with head only
- Sitting or rising trot
- Gloves
- Spurs
- Saddle-any type
- Soft hand hold
- Deep saddle
- Elastic bands on stirrups
- Enclosed stirrups
- Magnetic stirrups
- 1 whip
- Breast plate and/or neck strap
- Split rein on double bridle
- Elastic inserts in reins
- Safety vest (including inflatable)



**Non-Standard Compensating Aids.**

These are aids or equipment not described in the table on the left. The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid approved by the FEI Compensating Aids Panel. See FEI website.

\*Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List once approved.



