

## Para-Equestrian Athlete Grade Status and Classification for the Paralympic Games 2016

Each NF is responsible for ensuring their Athletes' classification requirements have been met. As there will be no classification evaluation available at the 2016 Paralympic Games, it is essential that in the lead up to the Games each NF:

- Refers to the FEI Classification Master List at <http://www.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/about-para-equestrian> regularly to check the Grade Status of each of their Athletes
- Ensures Athletes are reviewed within the required time frames as described below.

**To comply with IPC requirements and be eligible for selection for the Paralympic Games by an NF/NPC, athletes must:**

**- Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2016.**

All Athletes who have undergone a classification evaluation for FEI Para Equestrian Competition are assigned a Grade Status. Grade Status is allocated based on the Athlete's presentation and impairment. A category is allocated to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities (Refer FEI Classification Manual 3.6 page 14) and is included on the FEI Classification Master List.

In summary each Status is assigned to the Athlete by the Classification Panel at the competition and approved by the FEI Classification Working Group. Each Status is described briefly below:

- a) **NEW (N)**: This designation indicates an Athlete who has not undergone all aspects of the Evaluation process in order to obtain a Grade for FEI Para –Equestrian Competition.
- b) **REVIEW (R)**: This designation indicates an Athlete who has undergone Evaluation and has obtained a Grade for International Competition, but may require further Evaluation according to the Classification Rules of the FEI. This may be due to a changing impairment, borderline result or other circumstance.
- c) **REVIEW FIXED DATE\***: This designation indicates a status for Review athletes for Paralympic Games competition only. The Fixed Date will be a date after the Paralympic games (after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016) at which time the Athlete returns to Review Status.
- d) **CONFIRMED (C)**: This designation indicates an Athlete who has undergone Athlete Evaluation and has obtained a Grade for International Para-Equestrian Competition, and does not require further evaluation according to the Classification Guidelines of the FEI.

Each NF must refer to the FEI Classification Master List to check their athletes' Grade Status. If your athlete has...

- A **"N" Status** – your athlete has not completed all requirements for FEI Classification. They most likely need to be observed riding in a competition by two FEI Classifiers before they can be assigned "R" or "C". If given a "R" Status the information below will apply.
- A **"R" Status** – with a Review date listed, your Athlete needs to be reviewed at a time as close as possible to that date. If the Review date listed is:
  - **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 or later** no further action is required until the date nominated. This athlete with this Grade Status and Review date can be eligible for the Paralympic Games 2016.
  - **Is prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016** and the athlete is being considered for Paralympic Games selection, a classification Review should be organised at the next FEI competition in which the Athlete is competing so that a new Review date can be assigned after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 where appropriate. If the Athlete is not being considered for Paralympic selection, the Review date can remain and a review can occur at the nominated date as listed
- A **"R" Status** – with **No Review date** listed, these Athletes need to undergo a Review Classification assessment in order to determine their next Review date. NFs are encouraged to arrange this at the next FEI PE competition opportunity. To be considered eligible for the Paralympic Games this is a priority requirement for each NF to address.
- A **"C" Status** – your athlete's impairment is constant and no review is required and therefore no action is required in preparation for the Paralympic Games.

**It is important to note that due to the IPC requirement for Review athletes for the Paralympic Games, the time frame described in the FEI Classification Manual (3.6 page 15) which states *within 6 months of World Championship or Paralympic Games*, is not applicable. The nominated Review date will dictate the Review timeframe.**

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