



UPDATE

Official Communication



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SPORTS

PARA-EQUESTRIAN

Classification opportunity for Athletes with Visual Impairment

The FEI, in cooperation with the Organising Committee of the CPEDI3* in Hartpury (GBR) and the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), is pleased to inform you that Para-Equestrian Athletes (both Dressage and Driving) with Visual Impairments will have the opportunity to be internationally classified in Hartpury on 3 July 2018.

No fee will be charged to athletes attending this particular IBSA Classification.

National Federations are kindly requested to submit the VI Classification requests to **Chloe Harty** by Monday 21 May 2018 with the following documents:

- The FEI Classification Request Form
- The FEI Consent for Classification Form
- The IBSA Medical Diagnostics Form, completed by a registered ophthalmologist

All of the above forms can be found on the **FEI Para-Equestrian Classification page** and must be completed in full, legibly and in English or with a signed translation in copy.

FEI Classification Research Reference Group

The FEI Classification Research project has been launched with a research partnership, run by Dr Sarah Jane Hobbs, between the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and Hartpury University Centre, both located in Great Britain. This project, which will have a duration of three years, will evaluate the FEI Classification system and will provide evidence-based research to the system, in compliance with the IPC Classification Code.

The FEI is seeking candidates, from the Para-Equestrian community, for the Classification Research Reference Group which will be an advisory group to the researchers. This is open to people who have an interest in the development of Para-Equestrian Athlete Classification. We are seeking members with technical knowledge or experience from within the sport of Para-Equestrian (Dressage and/or Driving) who are able to actively contribute to the research project in an advisory capacity. The invitation for candidates is open to Para-Equestrian Athletes, Classifiers, Coaches and Officials.

The Classification Research Reference Group will be a point of reference for the FEI Classification Research Project's team from the University of Central Lancashire and Hartpury University Centre. It is anticipated that the group will have a global representation and therefore conference calls will occur at several times per year. There will also be the need for additional liaison via email as required with the possibility of smaller group meetings in person if necessary.

The group will play a key role in receiving and reviewing project updates and providing advice on the following aspects of the project:

- technical aspects of the sport (Dressage and Driving) as it applies to Classification of Athletes
- suggestions or actions that may need to be taken as the project advances
- dissemination of information in easy to read language
- interpretation of results achieved

In addition, the Project Reference Group will:

- assist the research team in ensuring that the research questions, methods and interpretations are appropriate, acceptable and achievable
- advise the research team with regards to the production of information and consent materials and processes, as well as practicalities of recruitment.

As the Project has commenced, there is a need for the group to be convened within the coming months so we ask for nominations to be made to the FEI, using the **attached candidature form**, by 18 May. Please send any queries to **Chloe Harty**.

*The FEI UPDATE and supporting documents are available on the **FEI UPDATE Library** on the FEI website.*