



Para Equestrian Forum 2022





Day 3 – Classification
28 January 2022





Housekeeping

- The Para Forum sessions will be recorded
- Participants are all muted and have no video
- Please write any questions in the Chat (“To: Everyone”). These will be answered in the Q&A session following each topic.
- Please use the Chat just for questions.
- During Q&A please “Raise Hand” to ask a question. You can be unmuted by the host to speak.



WELCOME

Amanda Bond

Chair Para Equestrian Technical Committee

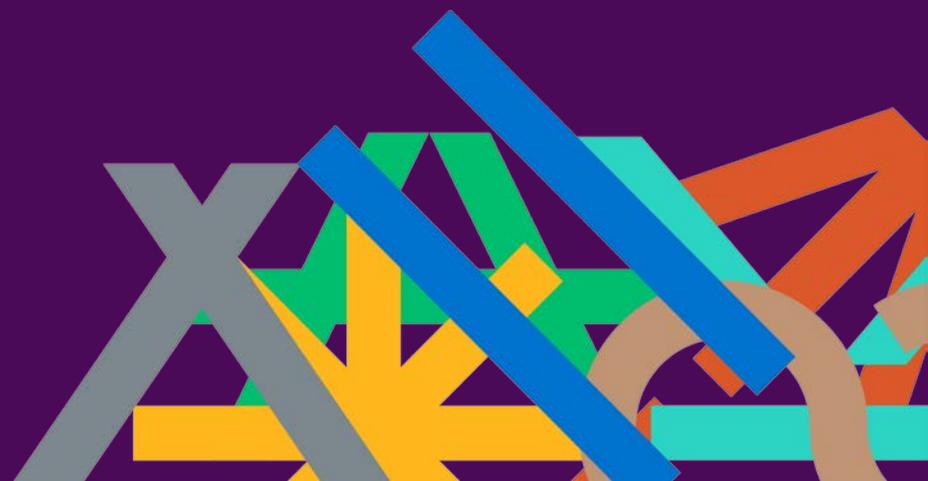




PARA EQUESTRIAN



Classification Research Update





University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan



HARTPURY

Recommendations for an evidence-based Para Dressage classification system: An update on research

Dr. Sarah Jane Hobbs
University of Central Lancashire

Where opportunity creates success



Classification research in Para Sport

- The *IPC Position Stand on the background and scientific principles of classification in Paralympic sport* (Tweedy & Vanlandewijck, 2011) first outlined the conceptual framework for evidence-based classification.
- Each sport should develop its own classification system based on **empirical evidence** that demonstrates **the association between impairment and performance** in that sport.

Conceptual framework for evidence-based classification

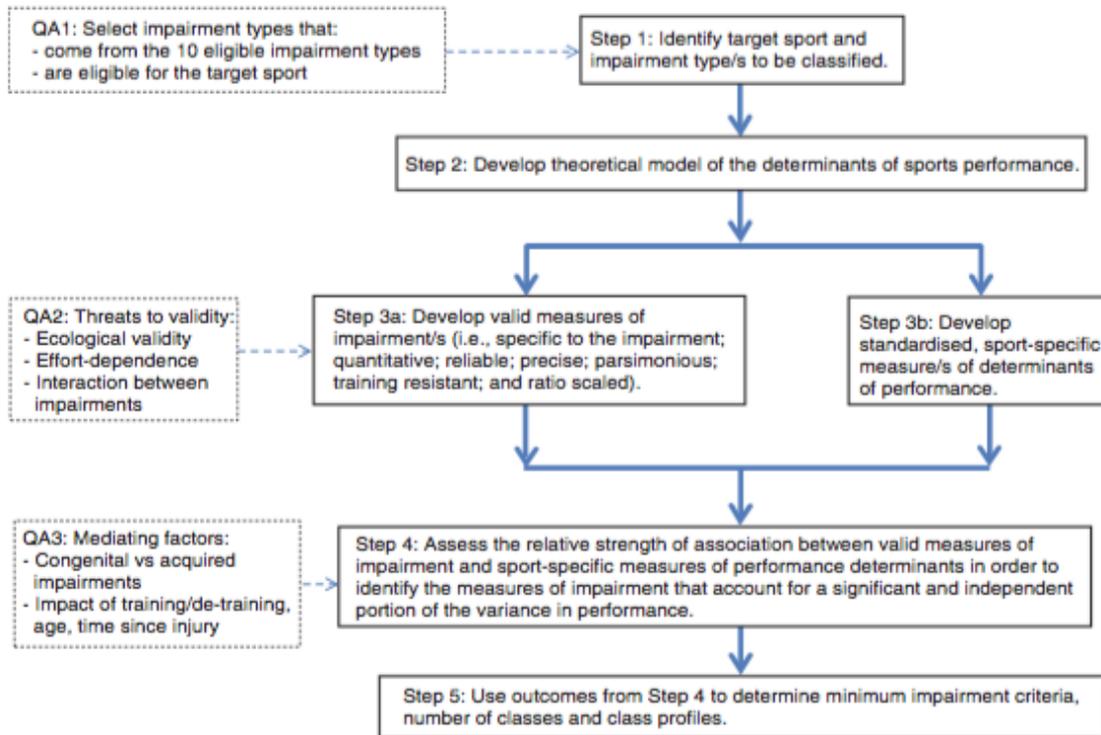


Figure 7.1 Schematic representation of research required for the development of evidence-based systems of classification. The boxes with the solid outlines (Steps 1–5) are essential. The boxes with dashed outlines (QA1–QA3) are not essential to every research program, but are generally important quality assurance (QA) measures.

Project Aim:

*To develop a comprehensive understanding of the effect of different physical impairment types on performance in dressage, which will inform recommendations for an **evidence-based**, sport-specific Classification system for Para-Equestrian dressage.*

Phase 1

Scoping
Review 1
Performance
Measures



Scoping
Review 2
Clinical
Measures



Phase 2

Interviews
Stakeholder
Opinions



Phase 3

Ridden
Tests



Simulator
Tests

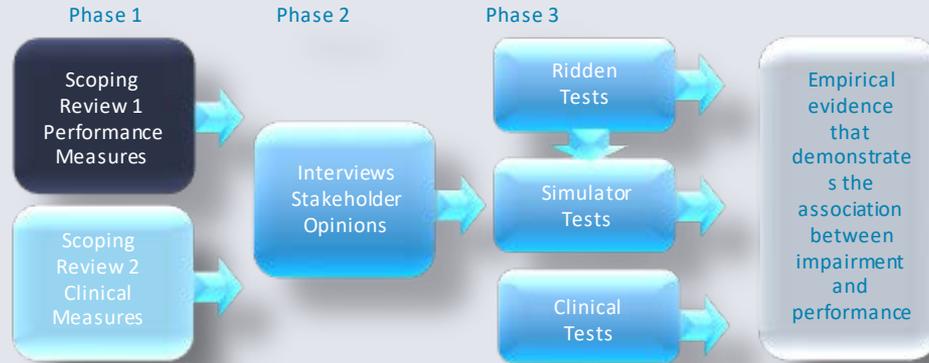


Clinical
Tests



Empirical
evidence that
demonstrates
the
association
between
impairment
and
performance

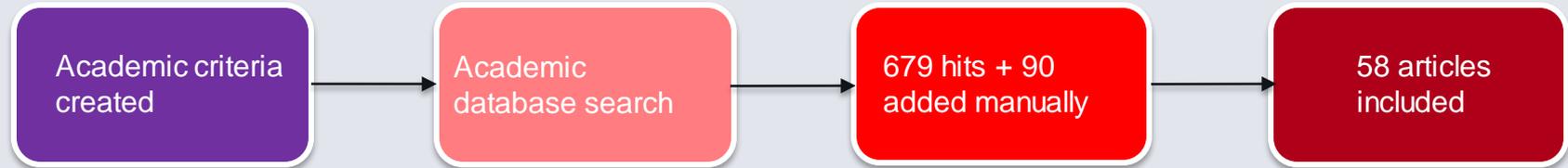
Scoping Review 1 – Horse and Rider Performance Measures



Scoping
Review 1
Performance
Measures

- AIM: to identify objective measurements of horse performance in dressage and the functional skills and abilities of the rider that may influence them to achieve higher scores.

Scoping Review 1 – Horse and Rider Performance Measures



Measurements of horse performance

Subjective measures

FEI PARA DRESSAGE

PARA DRESSAGE TEST 20x40 Arena GRADE II

TEAM TEST

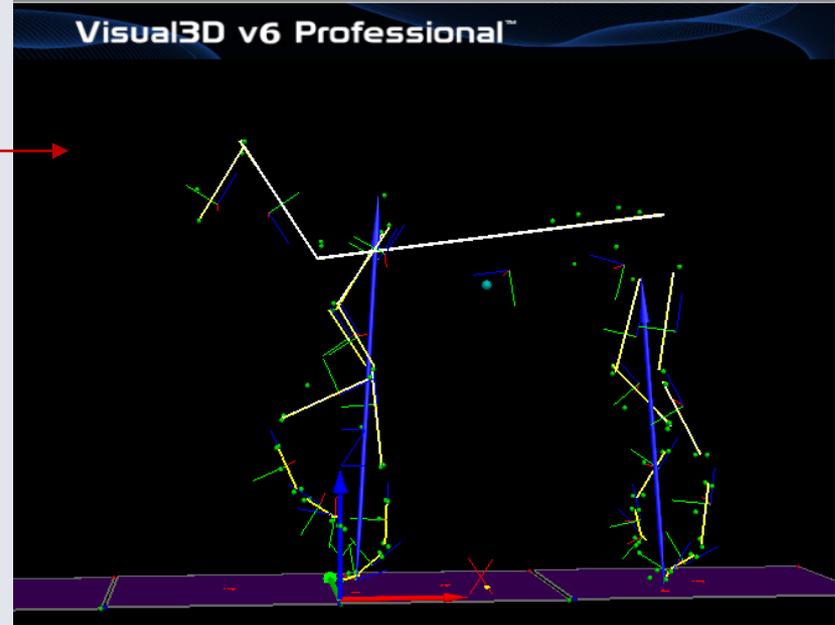
Event : _____ Date : _____ Judge : _____ Position

Competitor No : _____ Name : _____ NF : _____ Horse : _____

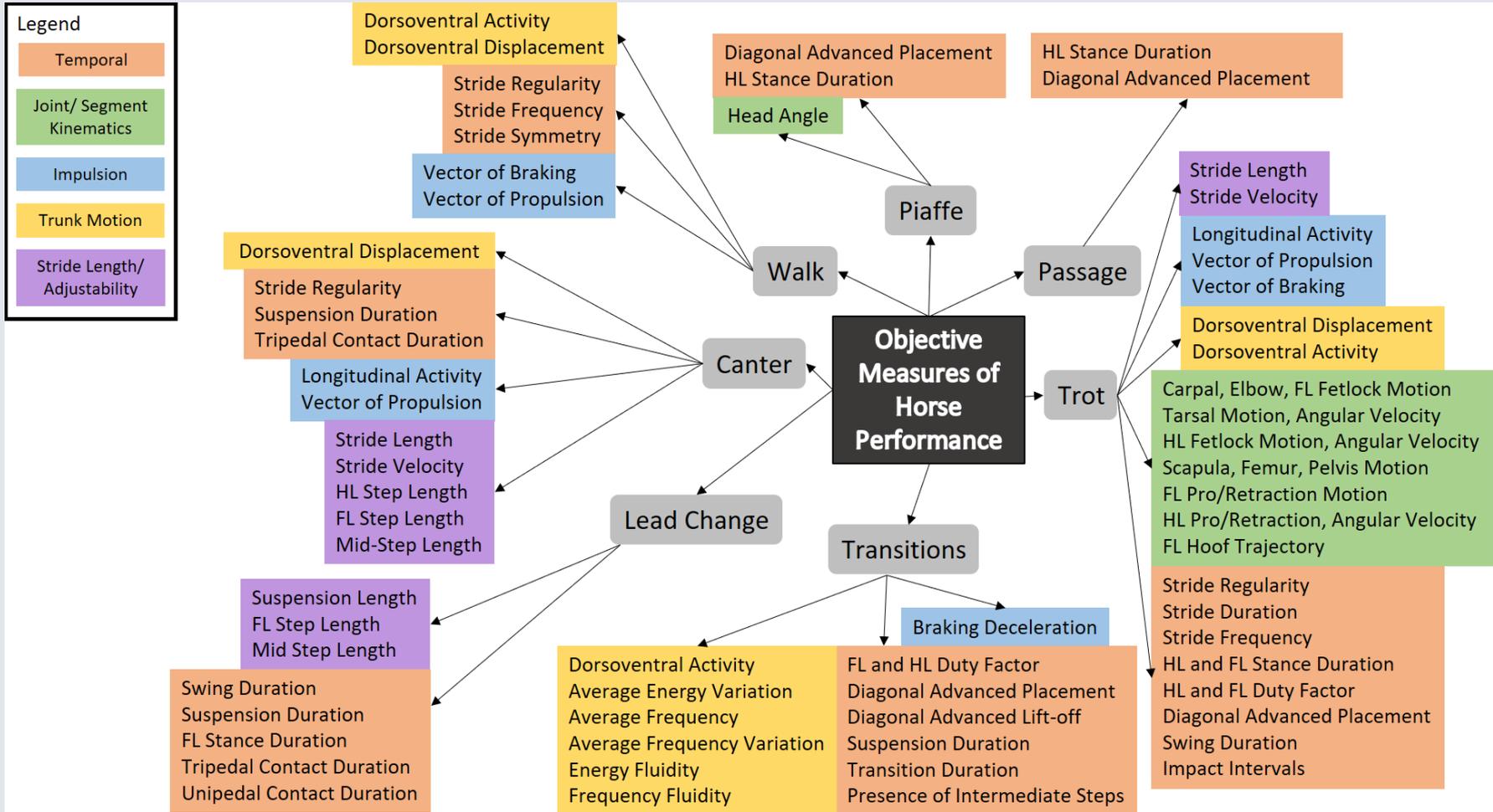
Time 5'00" (for information only) Minimum age of horse: 6 years

No	Letter	Movement	Marks	Mark	Correction	Coefficient	Final Mark	Directive Ideas	Remarks
1.	A X XC C CH	Enter in medium walk Halt. Immobility. Salute. Proceed in medium walk. Medium walk. Track left Medium walk	10					Regularity and quality of walk. Transitions to halt. Immobility. Straightness. Balance. Contact and poll.	
2.	H HE EB	Transition to working trot Working trot Half circle left (20m Ø)	10					Smooth and fluent transition. Regularity, bend and size of half circle.	
3.	BH HC	On the diagonal Working trot	10					Regularity and quality of trot, activity, contact, straightness on diagonal.	
4.	C After C	Transition to medium walk Turn down on the quarter line	10					Smooth execution and fluency of transition. Regularity and quality of walk. Straightness. Balance.	
5.	From between B and X to F FA	Leg yield left Medium walk	10			2		Regularity and quality of walk, flexion at poll, upright balance, forward sideways movement.	

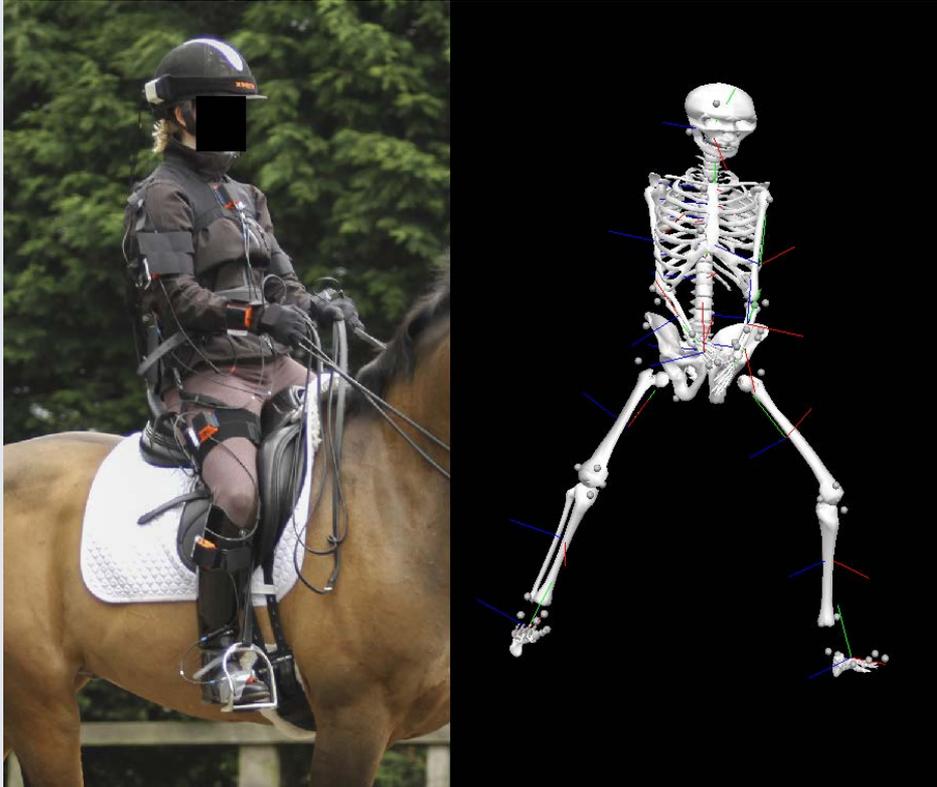
Objective measures



Results – Horse Performance



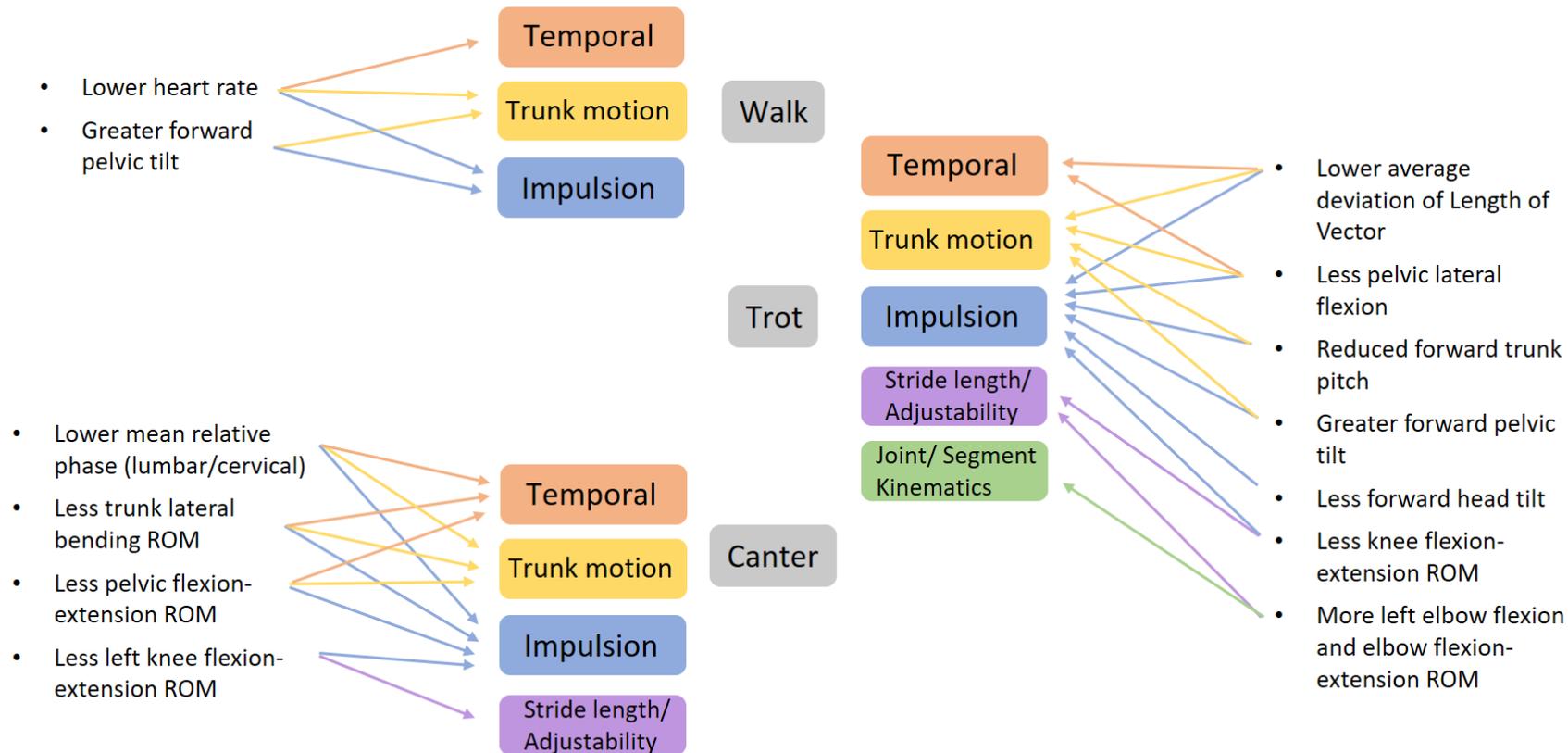
Measurements of rider performance



Skilled rider characteristics

Possible links to dressage performance

Skilled rider characteristics



A scoping review of determinants of performance in dressage

Sarah Jane Hobbs¹, Lindsay St George¹, Janet Reed¹, Rachel Stockley¹, Clare Thetford¹, Jonathan Sinclair¹, Jane Williams², Kathryn Nankervis² and Hilary M. Clayton³

¹ University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom

² Hartpury University, Gloucester, United Kingdom

³ Sport Horse Science, Mason, MI, United States of America

ABSTRACT

As a first step in achieving an evidence-based classification system for the sport of Para Dressage, there is a clear need to define elite dressage performance. Previous studies have attempted to quantify performance with able-bodied riders using scientific methods; however, definitive measures have yet to be established for the horse and/or the rider. This may be, in part, due to the variety of movements and gaits that are found within a dressage test and also due to the complexity of the horse-rider partnership. The aim of this review is therefore to identify objective measurements of horse performance in dressage and the functional abilities of the rider that may influence them to achieve higher scores. Five databases (SportDiscuss, CINAHL, MEDLINE, EMBASE, VetMed) were systematically searched from 1980 to May 2018. Studies were included if they fulfilled the following criteria: (1) English language; (2) employ objective, quantitative outcome measures for describing equine and human performance in dressage; (3) describe objective measures of superior horse performance using between-subject comparisons and/or relating outcome measures to competitive scoring methods; (4) describe demands of dressage using objective physiological and/or biomechanical measures from human athletes and/or how these demands are translated into superior performance. In total, 773 articles were identified. Title and abstract screening resulted in 155 articles that met the eligibility criteria, 97 were excluded during the full screening of articles, leaving 58 included articles (14 horse, 44 rider) involving 311 equine and 584 able-bodied human participants. Mean \pm sd (%) quality scores were 63.5 ± 15.3 and 72.7 ± 14.7 for the equine and human articles respectively. Significant objective measures of horse performance ($n = 12$ articles) were grouped into themes and separated by gait/movement. A range of temporal variables that indicated

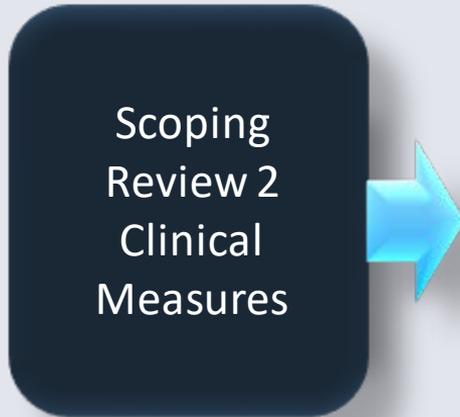
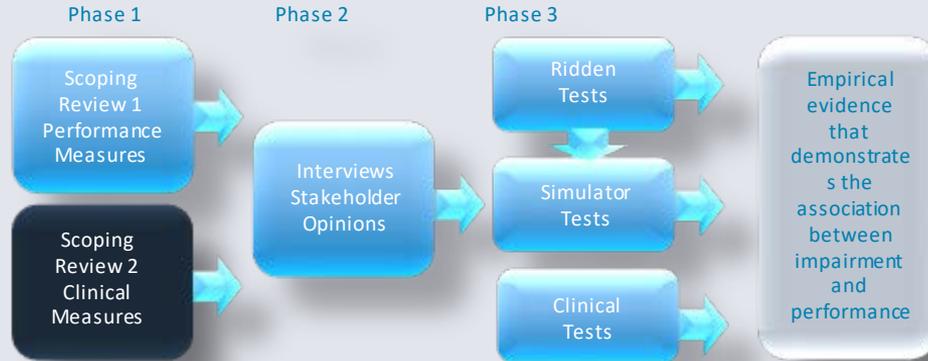
Submitted 3 December 2019

Accepted 29 March 2020

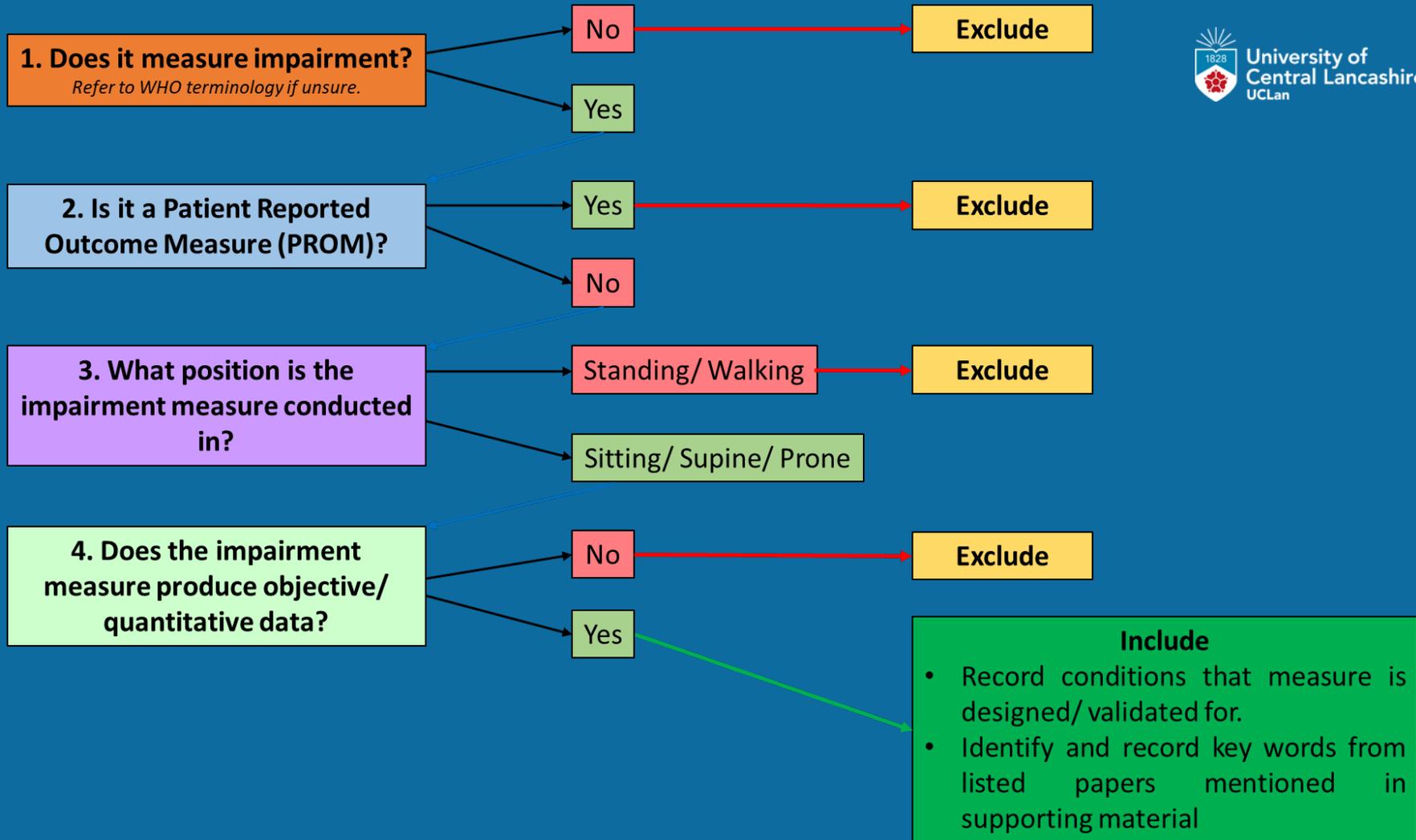
Published 24 April 2020

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Scoping Review 2 – Impairment Measures

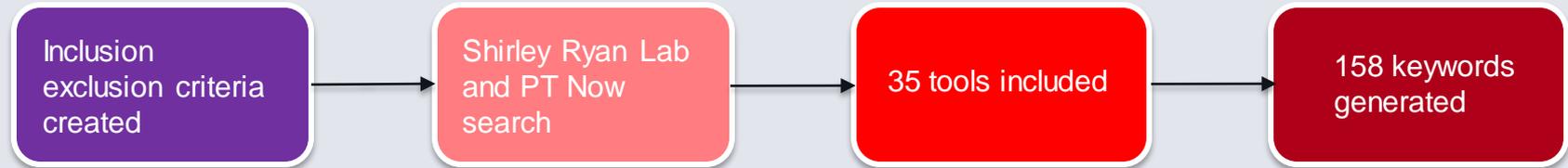


- AIM: to identify existing clinical assessments that could measure the impairments recognized to have the greatest impact on an individual's performance in Para dressage.

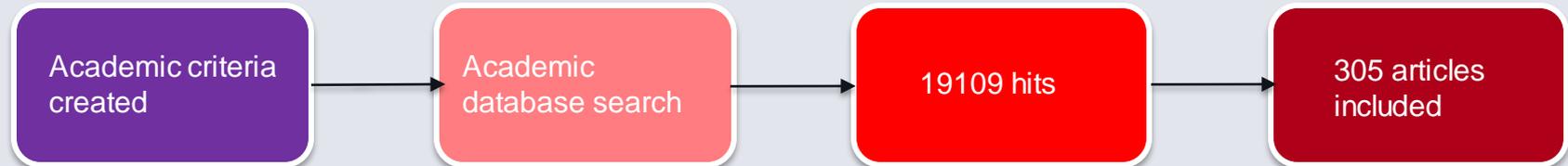


Scoping Review 2 – Impairment Measures

Professional database search



Academic database search



Initial refinement of tools

35 Tools

Exclusion
Unlikely to influence riding performance/could be compensated by adaptations
Categorization of the severity of a health condition or were only suitable for one condition
Most items performed in standing
Already included in classification assessment
Impractical to test in Para athletes
Construct already captured on other tools
No studies of reliability or validity



Inclusion
Muscle tone
Sitting balance
Coordination
Trunk movement
Muscle strength



10 Tools

Overall assessment of remaining tools

Clinical tool	Number of studies	Participants	Ave age (yrs)	Reliability	Validity	Utility Score
Ashworth Scale	8	136	54.2	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Modified Ashworth Scale	22	747	53.3	Yellow	Red	Green
Re-Modified Ashworth Scale ✓	10	270	50.6	Green	Yellow	Green
Function in Sitting Test (FIST) ✓	8	376	56.6	Green	Yellow	Green
Scale for Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA) ✓	12	870	44.4	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Tardieu Scale	1	13	70.2	Yellow	N/A	Red
Modified Tardieu Scale	12	537	53.7	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Trunk Impairment Scale ✓	14	1045	60.4	Green	Yellow	Green
Modified Trunk Impairment Scale	1	55	60.0	N/A	Yellow	Green
Hand-held Dynamometry ✓	35	1203	50.7	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Motricity Index	6	110	60.3	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Trunk Control Test	4	222	55.2	Yellow	Yellow	Green



1 *Review*

2 **A novel review of potential assessment tools** 3 **for Para Dressage Classification**

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6 ² Faculty of Allied Health and Wellbeing University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK PR1 2HE

7

8 Received: date; Accepted: date; Published: date

9 **Abstract:** The key aim of classification in Para sport is to try and ensure that
10 competitors are grouped so that they compete against others with a similar level of
11 impairment. This review aimed to identify existing clinical assessment tools that
12 could validly and reliably measure one of nine eligible impairments which influence
13 an individual's ability to compete at Para dressage.

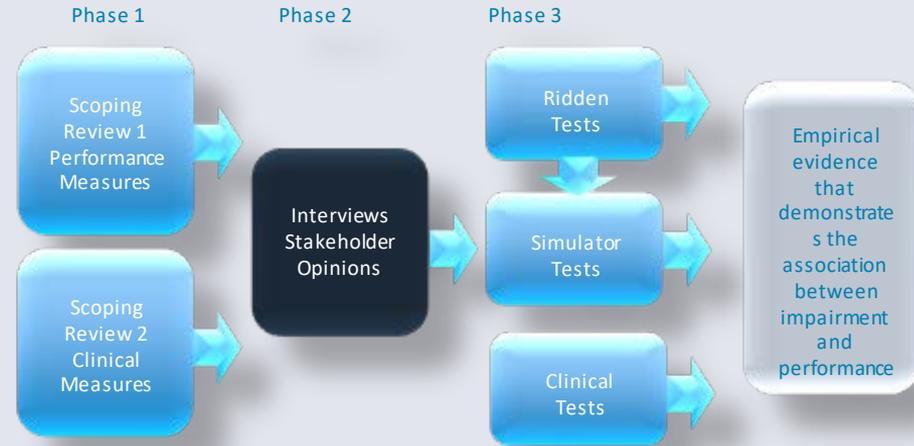
14 A systematic search of online databases up to September 2021 identified 35
15 potential clinical assessment tools and 305 articles that evaluated the properties of
16 these tools. The suitability of these clinical impairment tools for Para dressage
17 classification were evaluated using (i) previously published interview data from
18 athletes, classifiers, judges and coaches, (ii) recognized determinants of dressage
19 performance, (iii) consideration of the validity and reliability of the tool in clinical
20 populations and (iv) assessment of their practical suitability for classification
21 testing.

22 This resulted in the selection of ten clinical impairment assessment tools (which
23 included measures of muscle tone, strength, coordination, sitting balance and trunk
24 function), presented here, which will be used in further testing in the field. This
25 review presents a novel process by which assessment tools were selected, refined and
26 critically examined using knowledge of performance determinants for dressage, the
27 views and experiences of stakeholders, and their reliability and validity. By following
28 the processes detailed here, other Para sports could identify suitable clinical tools.

29 **Keywords:** Adult; assessment; human; Para sport; psychometric; tool

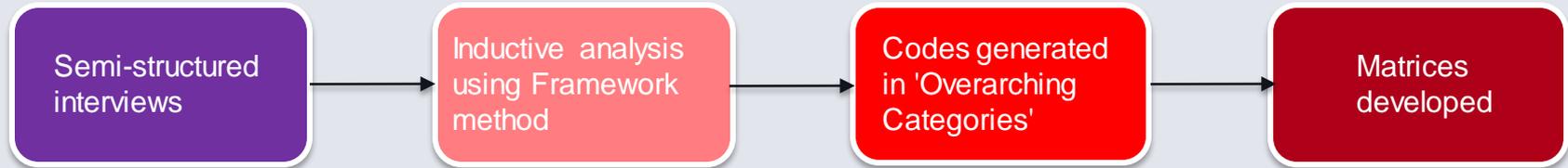
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Interview Study



- AIM: to explore the opinions and experiences of para dressage stakeholders in relation to perceived key determinants of, and impact of impairment on, sports performance in para dressage.

Interview Study



Key determinants of performance in para dressage

The impact of the horse on overall performance in dressage

Equine gait and movement quality (judge)

“...The first thing is the regularity in the rhythm, that should be 100% clear in the 3 gaits of the horse. So, if a horse does miss one of those clear gaits that will influence the performance.”

Equine character and temperament (athlete)

“...we need intelligent horses. That’s the biggest point, I think. A horse that wants to work with you and is intelligent enough to know what you mean, and to not be afraid.”

Key determinants of performance in para dressage

Key determinants of, and the impact of impairment on, human athlete performance in para dressage

Dynamic postural control for maintaining harmony between horse-rider movement (coach)

“You only need 3 things to ride a horse. A head, a symmetrical trunk, and something to sit on. The symmetry of the trunk is the core stability.....anything that makes somebody neurologically asymmetric really affects movement, balance.....”

Muscle power (athlete)

“As a rider, we think about strength, we think about range, we think about those kind of things but I don’t think that those are quite as important as being able to do more of that fine-tuned coordination in terms of grading your muscle strength....”

Joint mobility for riding (classifier)

“If you have got increased muscle tone in the legs you would tend to have reduced range of movement at the hips, knees and ankles, so it might be very difficult for the person to sit comfortably on the horse, until they have relaxed into the position.”

Inherent talent and personality (judge)

“Whether it’s the able-bodied or para rider, I think the basis is exactly the same. You need passion, you need discipline, you need a feel and a symbiosis with the horse that you are riding.”

An exploration of stakeholder perceptions to inform the development of an evidence-based classification system in para dressage

Lindsay St. George ^a, Clare Thetford ^b, Hilary M. Clayton ^c and Sarah Jane Hobbs ^d

^aResearch Centre for Applied Sport, Physical Activity and Performance, Faculty of Allied Health and Wellbeing, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK; ^bSchool of Nursing, Faculty of Health and Care, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK; ^cSport Horse Science, Mason, MI, USA

ABSTRACT

In dressage, horse-rider combinations must demonstrate harmony whilst performing a test of gaits and movements, scored by judge(s) using predetermined criteria. The para dressage governing body is working towards compliance with the International Paralympic Committee's mandate for evidence-based classification, which requires a comprehensive understanding of key performance determinants. This study aimed to explore stakeholder perceptions surrounding the key determinants of, and impact of impairment on, para dressage performance. Semi-structured interviews with 30 para dressage stakeholders (athletes, classifiers, judges, coach) were analysed using the Framework method. Themes relating to the equine and human athlete were associated with overall dressage performance and discussed within the context of impairment and horse-rider partnership. Key performance determinants were summarised as the athlete's ability to maintain dynamic postural control for absorbing the horse's movement and coordinating leg, hand, and seat aids, which directly influence the horse's quality and accuracy of movements during dressage. Thus, muscular coordination, joint mobility that influences rider posture, and personality traits that influence the horse-rider partnership were considered performance determinants. These themes will inform the development of an evidence-based classification system, through the establishment of standardised, sport-specific performance measures for assessing the relationship between impairment and activity limitation in para dressage.

ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Paralympic; performance; physical impairment; rider; equine

Phase 1

Scoping
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Phase 2

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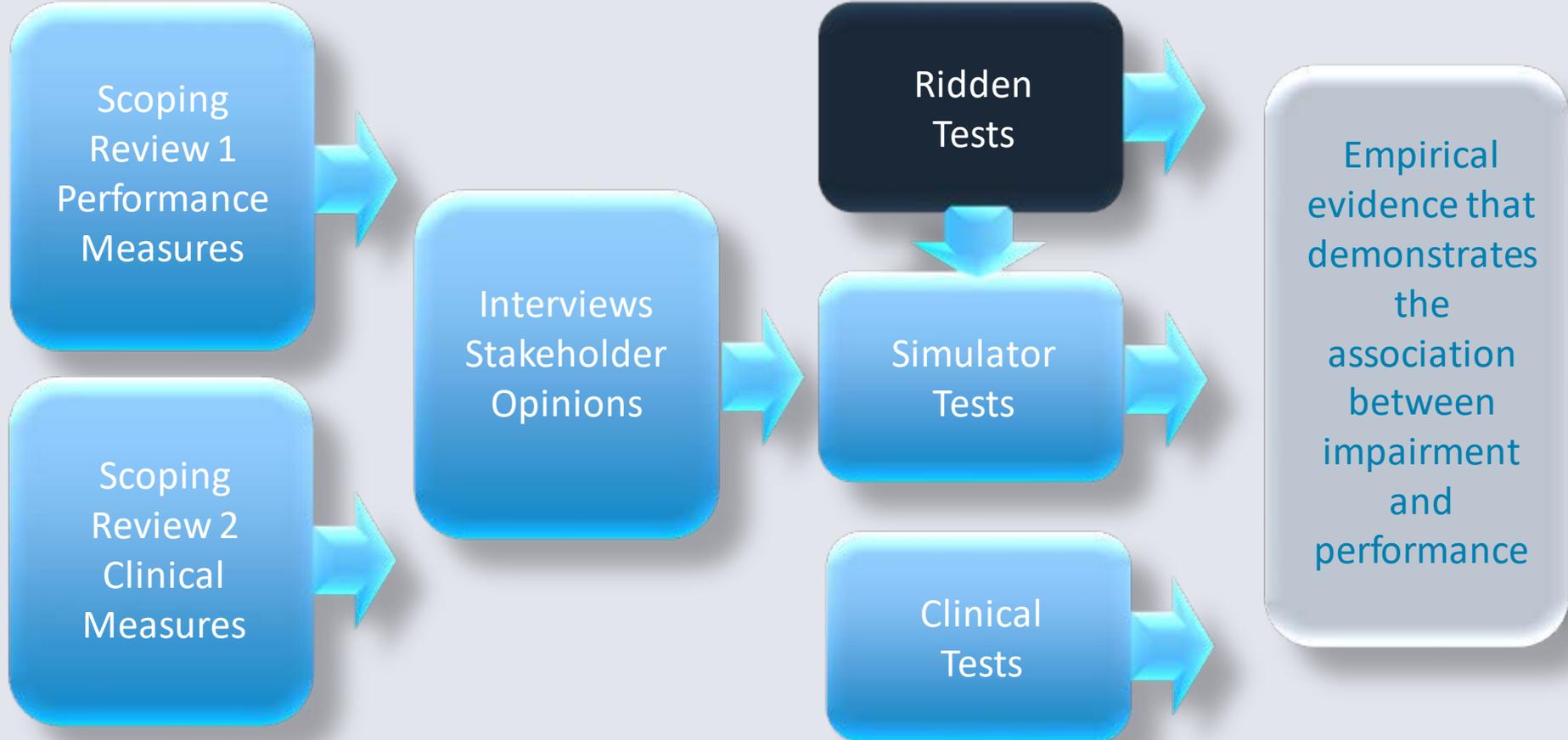
Phase 3

Ridden
Tests

Simulator
Tests

Clinical
Tests

Empirical
evidence that
demonstrates
the
association
between
impairment
and
performance



The Florida Project

In 2011, researchers used wearable sensors to study dressage horses' movement. This year, the study continued—and has exciting implications for training, riding, and lameness diagnosis.

By Hilary M. Clayton, BVMS, PhD, Dipl ACVSMR, FRCVS

I've been doing research on equine biomechanics since the 1980s, and during that time there have been incredible advances in equine-locomotion analysis.

to describe these measuring devices). One such device, the Equinosis Q Lameness Locator, is used by veterinarians to determine which of a horse's limbs is lame, and to what

croup and poll on the left and right diagonals. Results are displayed as numbers and graphs, from which the veterinarian can discern right and left front- or hind-limb lameness.

Phase 1: The Florida 2011 Project

In 2011, researchers from the Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center at Michigan State University partnered with Dr. Thilo Pfau from the University of London to study how the symmetry of the horse's trot changes on a circle compared with on a straight line. The study used Equigait, an inertial-sensor system developed by Dr. Pfau.

The results showed that when sound horses trot on a circle, their gait becomes asymmetrical in such a way that it mimics lameness of the inside forelimb and inside hind limb. The amount of asymmetry increases at faster trotting speeds and on smaller circles. The sensors were sensitive enough to detect differences even on a large (20-meter) circle.

This is important information for veterinarians because the effects of circling are enough to make a sound



RESEARCH TEAM: Dr. Marie Rhodin, Dr. Filipe Bragança, Dr. Elin Hernlund, Rosalie Bos, Dr. Sarah Jane Hobbs, and Prof. Hilary Clayton with rider Kim Aikens on Horbjergards Ziggy during the January 2020 data-collection project in Florida



Static pelvic posture is not related to dynamic pelvic tilt or competition level in dressage riders

Celeste A. Wilkins , Kathryn Nankervis , Laurence Protheroe 
and Stephen B. Draper 

Equine Department, Hartpury University, Gloucester, UK

ABSTRACT

Static assessment and grouping of riders by competition level are prevalent in equestrian coaching practice and research. This study explored sagittal pelvic tilt in 35 competitive dressage riders to analyse the relationship between static and dynamic postures and assess the interaction of competition level. Riders were assessed using optical motion capture on a riding simulator at halt and in walk, trot, and left and right canter. Mean, minimum and maximum pelvic tilt, and range of motion (ROM) were measured as the pitch rotation of a rigid body formed by markers placed on the rider's left/right anterior and posterior superior iliac spines and sacrum, averaged over six time-normalised strides. Three key results emerged: (1) there are correlations between the rider's mean pelvic tilt in simulated walk, trot and canter, but not at halt; (2) mean pelvic tilt values are not significantly influenced by competition level ($p = 0.233$); and (3) the minimum and maximum pelvic tilt values illustrate individual strategies between gaits. Therefore, results from static assessment and grouping of riders by competition level should be interpreted with caution. Riders should be assessed as individuals, during dynamic riding-specific tasks, to understand their postural strategies.

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KEYWORDS

Pelvic tilt; dressage rider;
kinematics; posture;
equestrian



ELSEVIER

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journal homepage: www.j-evs.com



Rider Skill Affects Time and Frequency Domain Postural Variables When Performing Shoulder-in



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Rider performance

ABSTRACT

In equestrian sports the novice rider learns first to follow the movements of the horse's back and then how to influence the horse's performance. One of the rider's challenges is to overcome inherent horse and/or rider asymmetry patterns when riding in straight lines, mirroring the movements on the left, and right sides when turning. This study compares the performance of novice and advanced riders when riding in sitting trot on straight lines and when riding shoulder-in to the left and right sides. Eight novice and eight advanced horse-rider combinations performed sitting trot in a straight line, shoulder-in left and shoulder-in right while wearing a full body set of inertial sensors. An experienced dressage judge indicated when the movements were being performed correctly and assigned scores on a scale of 0-10 for the quality of performance. Kinematic data from the inertial sensors were analyzed in time and frequency domain. Comparisons were made between trotting on the straight, shoulder-in left, and shoulder-in right. Advanced riders received higher dressage scores on all three movements, but significantly ($P < .05$) lower scores were found for shoulder-in right across the two groups. When riding shoulder-in, advanced riders had greater hip extension (advanced = -5.8 ± 17.7 ; novice = 7.8 ± 8.9 degrees) and external rotation (advanced = -32.4 ± 15.5 ; novice = -10.8 ± 13.2 degrees) in the outside leg compared with novices ($P < .05$), which reflects an important cue in achieving the required body rotation in the horse. Lower scores for shoulder-in right may be linked to significant ($P < .05$) changes in harmonics of trunk to pelvis rotation.

Phase 1

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Empirical
evidence that
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Assessing the impact of impairment on performance: Example

- The purpose of this study was to quantify the extent to which range of movement (ROM) and coordination affect running performance in runners with and without brain impairment.
- 41 male runners, 13 with brain impairments (RBI), 28 non-disabled (NDR).
- RBI group took significantly longer to run 30-60 m than NDR group ($4.3s \pm 0.6$ vs. $3.8s \pm 0.3$).
- Relationship between dorsiflexion lunge and time was significant for RBI group, so the longer the time, the smaller the dorsiflexion lunge ROM.

Connicket al. (2015). Med & Sci in Sport & Ex.

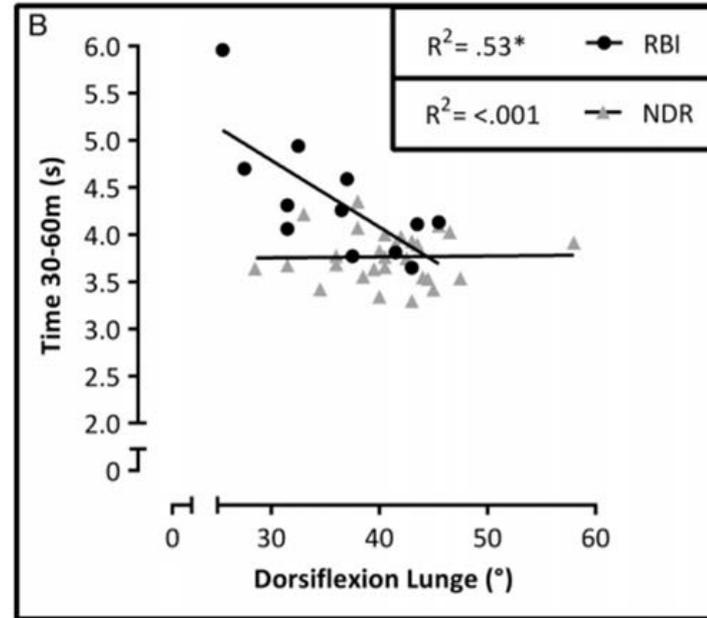
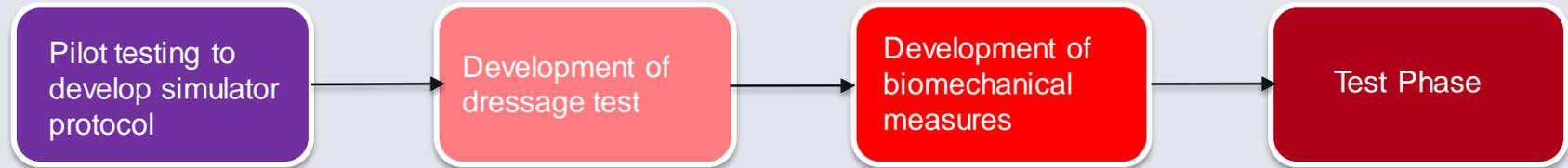


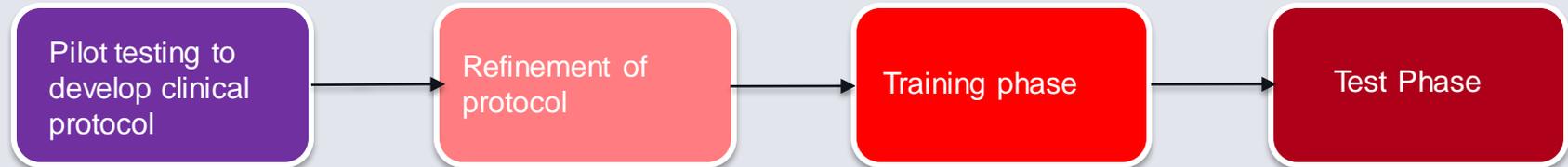
FIGURE 4—A, B, Dorsiflexion lunge versus acceleration (0–15 m) and dorsiflexion lunge versus maximal velocity (30–60 m) respectively. In each panel, the coefficient of determination (R^2) is presented on the top right of the panel for RBI and for NDR. In each case, R^2 is significant for RBI but not for NDR ($P < 0.05$).

Test phase: Investigating the impact of impairment on performance

Simulator test



Clinical tests



Linking rider performance to measures of impairment



Performance Measure



Impairment Measure

Feedback from participants

'It was a great day, you guys were so helpful and made everything run smoothly and make me feel not only that I understood the process but also feel at ease. It was a really positive experience.'

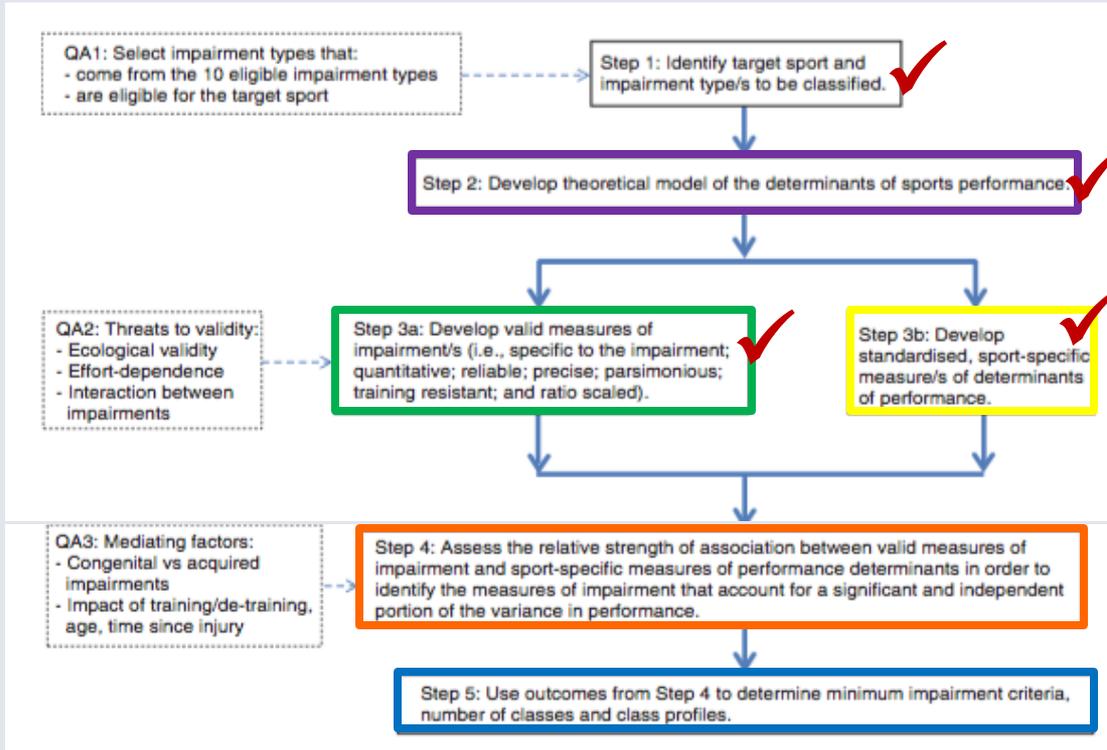
'The research is really interesting'

'My thoughts on the testing are that they were sympathetically carried out....'

'The testing process was a pleasure to do. Friendly researchers, all very clear on what was expected and was fun'

'...research like this I believe is so important. I would highly encourage all para riders to participate to help their sport develop fairly.'

Conceptual framework for evidence-based classification



Scoping Review 1

Scoping Review 2
Interview Study

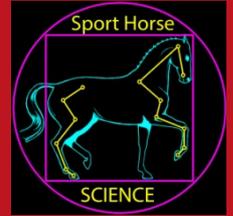
Scoping Review 1
Ridden Test Studies
Interview Study
Pilot Testing

Test Phase: Impact of impairment on performance

Make recommendations based on evidence

Thank you.

Questions?

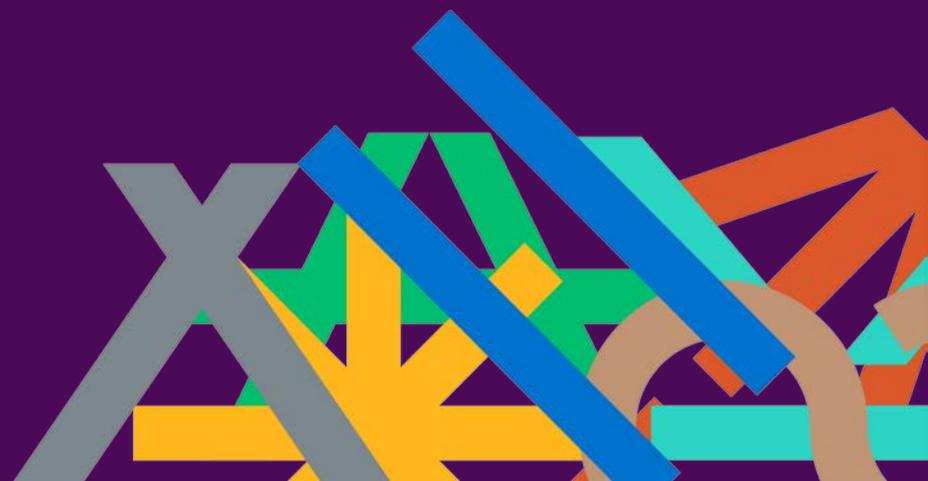




PARA EQUESTRIAN



Break 20 minutes





PARA EQUESTRIAN

FEI Classification Update



What will be discussed part of the session

Part 2

Sharyn Gregory (FEI Head of Classification)

FEI Classification update including:

- Classification during the pandemic
- Classification Governance – how it works
- Classification process reminders
- Questions/discussion

Classification during the Pandemic

*New
challenges
not
experienced
before!*



← From this

To this ↓



Classification during the Pandemic

Key considerations

- Safety and welfare of athletes
- Safety and welfare of classifiers
- Travel and quarantine restrictions
- Environment
- Providing a “close contact” activity safely - PPE/hygiene
- Events cancelled
- Classification prior to the Paralympic Games





Classification during the pandemic

FEI PARA DRESSAGE

1

Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Para Dressage Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic [\(Updated 7 December 2021\)](#)

2

Waiver or modify specific FEI Classification Rules requiring –

- discussion with the IPC, specifically in the lead up to the Paralympic Games, and
- FEI Board approval



Classification during the pandemic – solutions

Issue	Solution (temporary Rule waiver)
Who could be classified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to classify as many athletes as possible New or non competing athletes not always able to be classified
Where classification provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete evaluation away from competition setting if no suitable venue Observation still required to happen in competition
Two FEI classifiers, one from another Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Level 2 classifier One on video possibly but not ideal or possible for every situation
Use of technology (video)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tried with one classifier via video conferencing but difficult
Limited ability to allocate Grade status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules do not allow Confirmed or Review with Fixed Review Status
Opportunities to be classified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not always possible during the pandemic to offer classification Out of competition

Classification during the pandemic – the outcome between January 2020 and December 2021

FEI Events

- 32 held between January 2020 and November 2021

Classification

- 28 events provided classification
- 23 had two classifiers present, 5 one classifier only present (1 classifier assisted via video for 1 event)

Athletes

- 105 athletes classified
- 28 New athletes classified



Classification during the pandemic – the future



- Aim to provide classification at as many events as possible
- Continue, only as required and where approved, with waiver to a small number of FEI Classification Rules
- Go to <https://inside.fei.org/fei/covid-19/resolutions-decisions/para-dressage>



Classification Governance – how it works

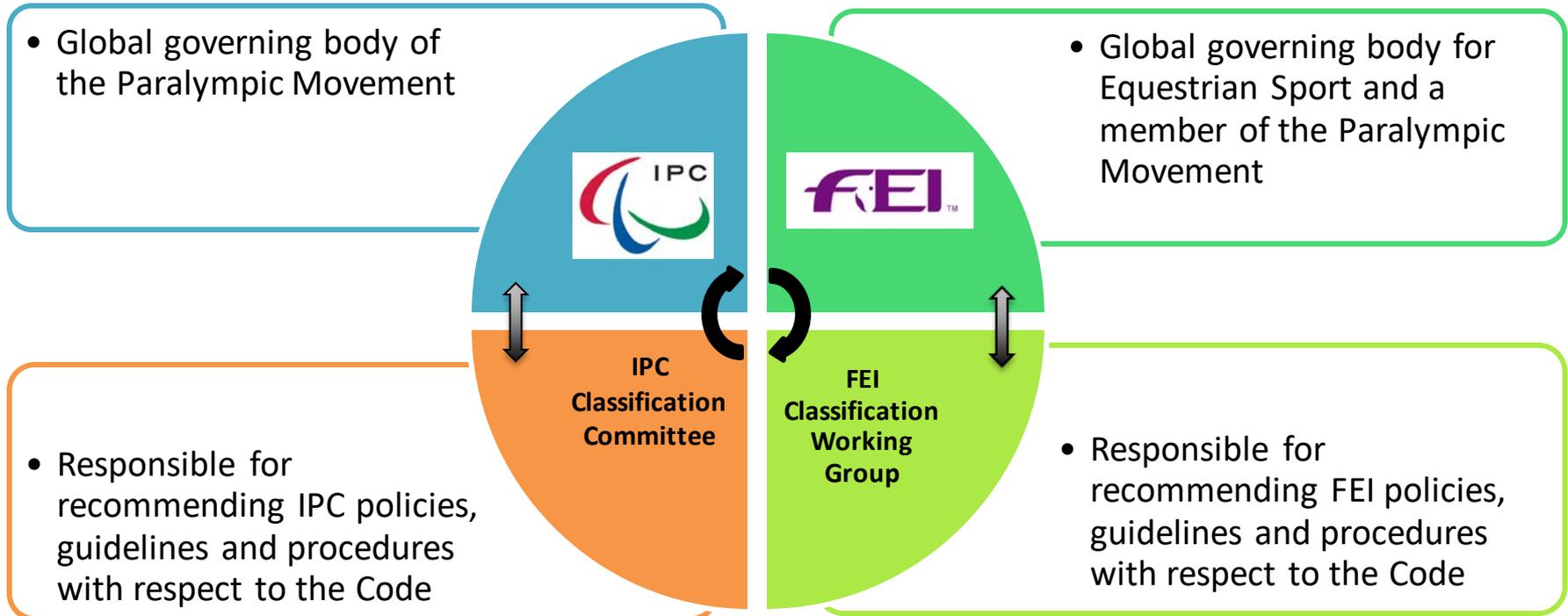


Classification in Para sports is individually governed by each International Sport Federation in the Paralympic Movement, within the framework of the *IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards*.



An International Sport Federation must develop and implement a classification system that complies with the Code and the International Standards (Article 2.2, IPC Athlete Classification Code 2015).

Classification Governance – how it works



Classification Governance – how it works

2003 - IPC Classification strategy

2007 - IPC Classification Code and International Standards (5). 2015 - IPC Classification Code & Standards reviewed and updated

Currently - IPC Classification Code (2015) & Standards under review - to be completed by 2024.

IPC Athlete Classification Code

November 2015





Classification Governance – how it works



The **IPC Code** is complemented by **International Standards** that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all signatories (including the FEI) in a manner which athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

1. **International Standard for Eligible Impairments**
2. **International Standard for Athlete Evaluation**
3. **International Standard for Protests and Appeals**
4. **International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training**
5. **International Standard for Classification Data Protection**

Classification Governance – in summary



- Athlete Classification Code
- Code Compliance (including model rules)
- Code Review
- Board of Appeal of classification
- Classification Research
- Classification Education



- FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules
 - Eligibility decision
 - FEI Classification Procedures
 - FEI Classification Protests & Appeals
 - FEI Manual for Classifiers
 - Classifier Education
 - FEI Classification Master List - athletes
 - Profile specific Compensating Aids
 - Classification Research (sport specific)
 - Classification Education
- Must be compliant with the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards

Classification Governance – athletes

For Athletes

All athletes competing in Para sport at International Competitions under the jurisdiction of the International Sport Federations **are responsible** to be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code (Code, article 12.4.1).



International
Paralympic Committee

Athlete Reference Guide

To the 2015 Athlete Classification Code

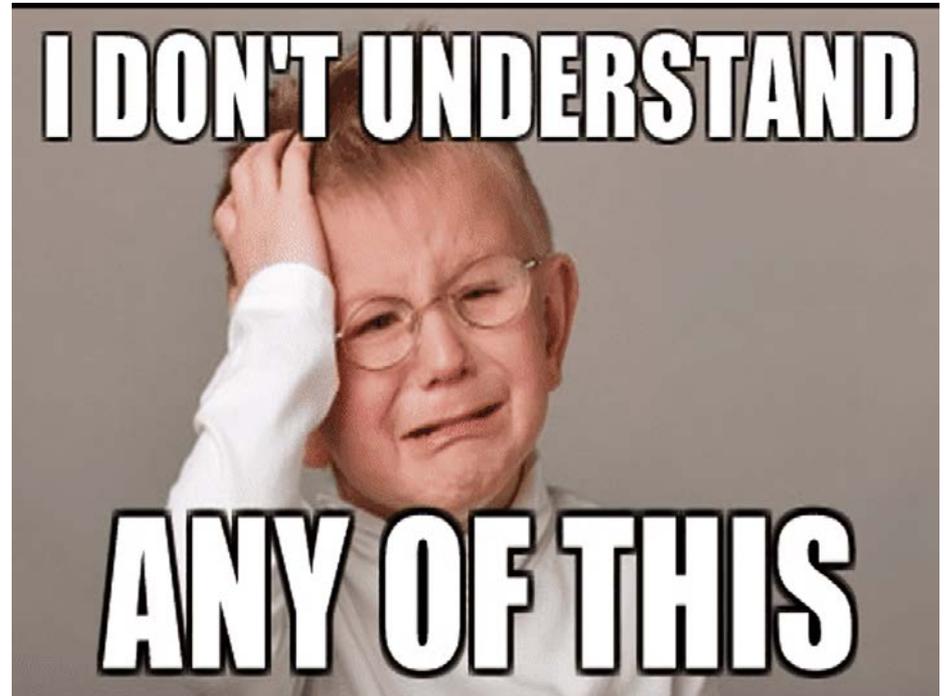
February 2017





Classification process reminders

Is this how you feel when someone talks about the classification process?



Steps in the Classification process

1. Determine eligibility to be FEI classified

- Application - Athlete applies through their NF to the FEI (see webpage)
- Permanent, measurable movement or vision impairment verified by medical documentation

Not Eligible

2. Determine eligibility for competition

- Athlete evaluation to determine if athlete meets Minimal Impairment Criteria (that is – are they eligible to compete in FEI PE)

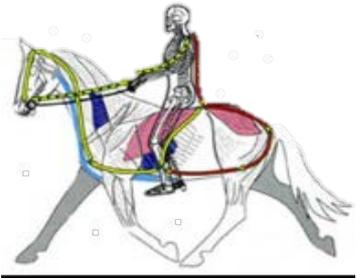
Not Eligible

3. Allocate Profile and Grade

Review

Not Eligible

4. Designate Grade Status
New, Review, Confirmed





Classification process reminders

Eligibility - New athletes requiring FEI Classification for the first time

- The Classification request must be made by the athlete's NF and include:
1. **The FEI Classification Request Form**, completed legibly and in English;
 2. **FEI Consent for Classification Form** completed in full and signed by the athlete;
 3. **FEI Medical Diagnostics Form** completed in full and signed by the athlete and by a medical doctor.

The Classification request must be received by the FEI at least six weeks (6 - 4 during Covid pandemic) before the next international competition where the athlete intends to compete.



Classification process reminders

Review - Athletes who are FEI classified and listed on the FEI Classification Master List with a status of Review (R)

- If a **Fixed Review Date** is listed on the FEI Master List, athletes should be reviewed at a competition as close as practicable to the date listed
- If just **Review** and **no** date, the athlete should be reviewed at the next opportunity/ FEI competition
- NF to ensure the organiser of the competition is aware the athlete needs review.
 - The chief classifier for the competition will schedule a time for the athlete to be reviewed
- The athlete and the NF do not need to contact the FEI or submit any documentation prior to the review. In some instances and only if required, the chief classifier may request further medical documentation from the athlete to assist in allocating a grade after the review.



Classification process reminders

Athletes with a status of **Confirmed** or **Review with a Fixed Review Date** requesting a **Medical Review**

Requested when:

- There is a change in the eligible impairment or activity limitation has become less severe, through medical intervention or other means.
Examples: athlete has had a tendon releases, joint fixations or replacement, or corrective eye surgery; an athlete's impairment is has deteriorated to an extent that the athlete most likely does not fit his/ her current grade (sport class) anymore.

The medical review request must be made by the athlete's NF and include:

- **Medical Review Request form**, completed legibly and in English;
- **Medical documentation** that demonstrates that the athlete's impairment changed since the last athlete classification;
- **Medical Review Request** must be received by the FEI at least 6 (4 weeks during Covid pandemic) weeks before the next FEI competition the athlete intends to compete at.

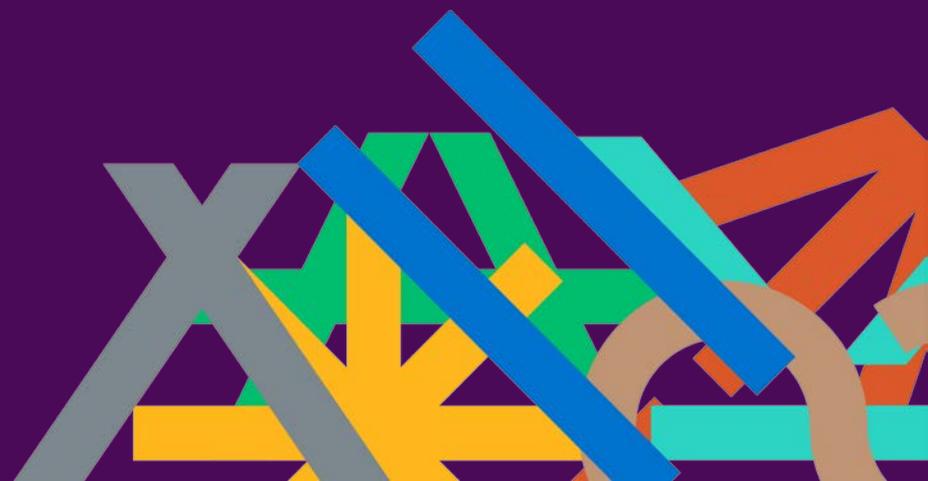
Further information

- All necessary information and relevant forms can be found published at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>
- All requests must be sent to the FEI HQ.

The screenshot shows the FEI website interface. At the top left is the FEI 100th anniversary logo. To the right is the Longines logo and a navigation menu with links for LOGIN, social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn), and FEI DATABASE, FEI UPDATE, FEI.ORG, a search icon, and a hamburger menu icon. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: # — Main Para Dressage — FEI Classification. A secondary navigation bar contains links for Main Events, Updates, Forums, Rules, FEI Classification (highlighted), Para Dressage Tests, Useful Docs, FEI Calendar/Results, and Rankings. The main content area features a large purple banner with the FEI logo on the left, a stylized horse silhouette, and the text 'FEI Classification' in large white letters. On the right side of the banner, there is a vertical list of 'X' and '//' symbols.

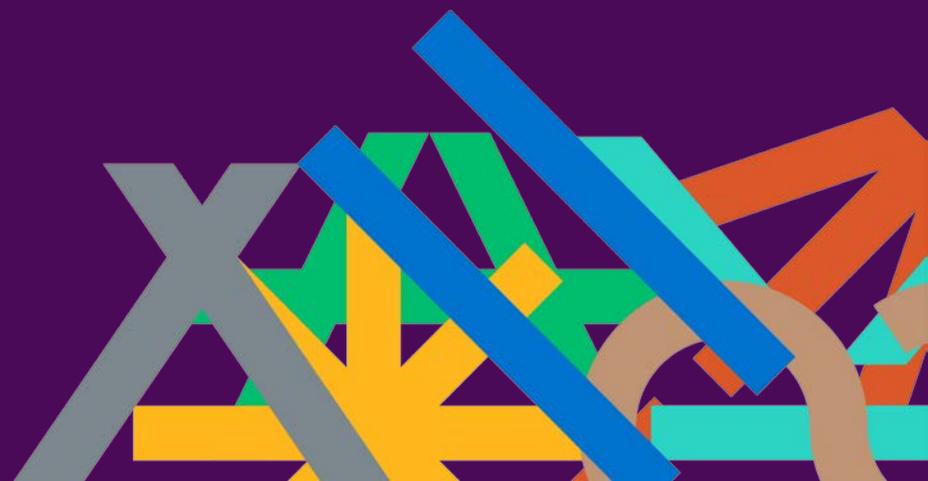


Questions and discussion





Wrap Up of Day 3





Closing remarks





PARA EQUESTRIAN



THANK YOU

