



Participant Information Form 24/05/2018

Title of Study: An investigation of stakeholder perception of the current Classification System in Para Dressage

You are being invited to take part in a research study, funded by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and conducted by researchers at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Hartpury College and Michigan State University. The study aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the effect of different physical impairment types on performance in dressage. This information will be used to develop recommendations for an evidence-based, sport-specific Classification system for Para Equestrian dressage.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. If you have any questions please ask any of the people listed at the bottom of this leaflet. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

This information is available in different size fonts and formats. Please let us know if you would like another format, including a different font, font size or audio.

What is the purpose of the study?

As part of the larger project, this study aims to conduct semi-structured interviews to explore the views and experiences of Para athletes and stakeholders. Interviews will explore opinions and experiences of the current classification system, perceived performance measures and the impacts of impairment on performance measures in Para Dressage. This work will ensure that the views and experiences of Para athletes and stakeholders are considered and used to inform the development of Classification systems.

Who is organising and funding this study?

This study is funded by the FEI. It is being led by Dr. Sarah Jane Hobbs and conducted by Dr. Lindsay St. George, Dr. Clare Thetford, Dr. Rachel Stockley and Dr. Jonathan Sinclair from the University of Central Lancashire. Collaborative researchers include Dr. Jane Williams and Dr. Kathryn Nankervis from Hartpury College and Prof. Hilary Clayton from Michigan State University.

Why have I been chosen?

You are a Para Dressage athlete or stakeholder (i.e. coach, judge, classifier) who is 18 years or older. We aim to recruit up to 20 athletes and up to 10 stakeholders for this study. Upon expressing interest to participate in this study, we will let you know whether we have recruited our target number of participants.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part. If you do take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form before the interview

to say that you understand what we are asking you to do. This form is available in large print or you may choose to provide your consent orally, which involves the researcher reading out the consent form and audio recording your responses. You can stop taking part in the study at any time during the interview, without giving any reasons.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part in the study you would be asked to take part in a semi-structured interview about your experiences with the FEI's current Classification system for Para Dressage. You will also be asked about what performance measures you perceive as being necessary for success in Para Dressage and the impacts of impairment on these performance measures. Interviews will include questions such as what skills/ activities/ abilities you think are essential for performance in dressage, what ways you feel your impairment influences your performance in Dressage, and how well you think the current Classification system reflects your impairment.

Interviews will take place in a private meeting venue or over the telephone. The interviews will vary in length and will depend upon how much time each participant has available, but they are not anticipated to last for more than 45 minutes. The interview will be recorded using an encrypted digital recorder and the researchers will make notes during the interview. All participants will have the option to choose whether they would like to be accompanied by a friend, carer, signer (if required) or relative in their interview.

These interviews are just one stage of this study. The next stage will involve biomechanical measures of the performance measures outlined in these interviews and from a literature search. These measurements will be taken during ridden tests on a horse and a riding simulator at Hartpury College. We may ask you if you would be happy to also take part in the biomechanics study. You do not have to agree to take part in the biomechanics study to take part in the interview. If you do agree to take part in the next stages of the study, we will ask for your contact details (email address) and would like to keep your details for up to two years after you first take part. By expressing interest, you are not obliged to take part in the biomechanics study, we will simply contact you during the recruitment process. We will also seek your permission to share anonymised data from your interview with the FEI and with other members of the research team, who are based in the UK, Switzerland and the USA.

What are the advantages of taking part in the study?

There are no immediate or direct benefits to participants. However, it is envisaged that the results of the larger study will lead to recommendations for improving the Classification system to ensure that the impact of impairment is minimised during competition, making sport as equal and fair as possible. Therefore, participants will undoubtedly benefit from the future application of findings from this study.

What are the disadvantages of taking part in the study?

You would be asked to give up your time to take part in the study. For this stage of the project we anticipate that the time commitment would be just over one hour, including the informed consent process and the interview.

Are there any risks in taking part?

We do not expect there to be any risks associated with taking part in these discussions. As with any study involving interviews it is possible that some of the questions asked require people to think back over experiences, some of which may be upsetting. If at any point you feel uncomfortable about the questions you are being asked, you are free to pause the interview, end the interview, move on to a different topic of discussion or take a moment with the person who accompanied you to the interview.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes, the information about you will be kept confidential. All interview data will be anonymised and your name will not appear in any publication. We would like to use quotes from the discussions to illustrate findings, but these will not contain any information that could identify you or anyone else. If during the interview you discuss anything that may lead to us having concerns about safety and/or standards of practice then we would have a duty of care to report this to relevant professionals at the FEI.

Any information held about you will be stored and managed in accordance with the University of Central Lancashire's policies on information governance and data protection and the Data Protection Act (1998). Any information that contains your personal information will be kept separately from the study files. Your information will be kept under an allocated study code. The recorded discussions will be transcribed and the digital recordings erased following transcription. The study information will be held for 5 years from the end of the study. The anonymous data from the study will be held within the University of Central Lancashire's archives and only the researchers involved in this project will have access to this data. The anonymous data from the study will be made available for further studies in accordance with the open data policy.

What will happen if I do not want to carry on with the study?

If you decide that you no longer wish to take part in the study you can withdraw at any time. This will not affect your relationship with the FEI, the University of Central Lancashire, Hartpury College or Michigan State University. However, you cannot withdraw from the study once your interview recordings have been transcribed, as these data will be anonymised and it will not be possible to identify your data at this stage. We envisage that this process will take up to 2 weeks, so you will have 2 weeks from the time of your interview to withdraw from the study.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The findings of this study will be submitted for publication in professional journals. It is likely that the larger study will form the basis for layperson articles in equestrian publications, which follow and report on Para Equestrian sport. The results of the larger study will form recommendations for improving the current Classification system for Para Dressage, so it is likely that findings from this study will be presented at FEI stakeholder meetings and may also be used to develop new recommendations for the Classification of Para Dressage athletes. A summary report will also be available for participants if you wish to receive this.

Who has reviewed this study?

The study has been reviewed by the University of Central Lancashire's research ethics committee.



What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the research team who will do their best to answer your questions.

What do I do if I want to participate in the study?

Please send an e-mail to sjhobbs1@uclan.ac.uk with only the subject header "Expression of interest for participation in FEI interview study". Your email address is the only contact detail required and we do not require any personal information or additional contact details at this time. Please do not include your name, telephone number, or any other personal information in the email. Please do let us know if you will be accompanied by a signer during your interview. The researchers will contact you about setting up an interview.

Your email address will be held anonymously and securely on a password protected PC, and will only be accessible to the project researchers. We would like to confidentially store your email address for up to two years after taking part in this study. This is to contact you about the results of this study and to update you about further research relating to the FEI Para Dressage Classification System. Your email address will cannot be used to identify your interview responses.

Further information and contact details

If you wish to discuss taking part or have any questions, please contact:

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You may also contact the University Officer for Ethics in relation to concerns or complaints about this research study at OfficerForEthics@uclan.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information. Please ask the researcher if you have any questions.