



Classification Rules for ITTF Para Table Tennis

Rules consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and accompanying International Standards

January 2018



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Part One: General Provisions

1 Scope and Application

Adoption

- 1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by ITTF-PTT to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The Classification Rules have been adopted by ITTF-PTT after approval by ITTF Executive Committee on December 14th 2017.
- 1.3 The Classification Rules will be valid as of January 1st 2018.
- 1.4 The Classification Rules will certainly be updated in 2019 in order to continue and complete the process of compliance with 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards. Athletes who are eligible according to 2018 Classification Rules could be not eligible according to 2019 Classification Rules.
- 1.5 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.6 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from ITTF-PTT, and can be amended by ITTF-PTT from time to time.

Classification

- 1.7 Classification is undertaken to:
 - a) define who is eligible to compete in Para Table Tennis and consequently who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and
 - b) group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

Application

- 1.8 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered or licensed with ITTF-PTT, or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, approved or recognised by ITTF-PTT.



- 1.9 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of ITTF, including but not limited to ITTF Handbook and ITTF Handbook for Match Officials. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

International Classification

- 1.10 ITTF-PTT will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.11 ITTF-PTT will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Approved Competitions. ITTF-PTT will advise Athletes, National Bodies and National Paralympic Committees in advance as to such Approved Competitions.

Interpretation and Relationship to Code

- 1.12 References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.13 The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented or replaced by the ITTF-PTT from time to time.
- 1.14 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.15 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.



Athlete Responsibilities

2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:

- c) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- d) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
- e) ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to ITTF-PTT;
- f) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- g) actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities

2.3 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:

- a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Responsibilities

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- a) have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.



Part Two: Classification Personnel

3 Classification Personnel

3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. ITTF-PTT will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for Para Table Tennis.

Head of Classification

3.2 ITTF-PTT must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for ITTF-PTT.

3.3 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, ITTF-PTT may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification.

3.4 The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier.

3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by ITTF-PTT.

3.6 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Classifiers

3.7 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the ITTF-PTT to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

Chief Classifiers

3.8 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by ITTF-PTT. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by ITTF-PTT to do the following:

3.8.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;



- 3.8.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
 - 3.8.3 manage Protests in consultation with ITTF-PTT; and
 - 3.8.4 liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified ITTF-PTT officers or representatives or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

Trainee Classifiers

- 3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by ITTF-PTT.
- 3.11 ITTF-PTT may appoint a maximum of two Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.

4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by ITTF-PTT as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 ITTF-PTT must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 ITTF-PTT must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
 - 4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
 - 4.3.2 an understanding of Para Table Tennis, including an understanding of the technical rules of Para Table Tennis;
 - 4.3.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and



- 4.3.4 a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for ITTF-PTT. These include that Classifiers must either:
- a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which ITTF-PTT at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment; and/or a psychologist for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment.
 - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in Para Table Tennis; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which ITTF-PTT at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
- 4.4 ITTF-PTT must establish a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
- 4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
 - 4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
 - 4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
 - 4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 ITTF-PTT must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. ITTF-PTT will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 ITTF-PTT must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 ITTF-PTT may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
- 4.7.1 a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
 - 4.7.3 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.4 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;



- 4.7.5 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
- 4.7.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if ITTF-PTT is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
- 4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if ITTF-PTT is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in ITTF-PTT depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. ITTF-PTT has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to ITTF-PTT.
- 5.4 If ITTF-PTT receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5 ITTF-PTT has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.



Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

6 General Provisions

- 6.1 ITTF-PTT has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
 - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Para Table Tennis;
 - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Table Tennis; and
 - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Table Tennis.

7 Eligible Impairment

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in Para Table Tennis must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in Para Table Tennis.
- 7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One and Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4 ITTF-PTT must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.4.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, ITTF-PTT may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Three lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.



- 7.4.2 The means by which ITTF-PTT determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of ITTF-PTT. ITTF-PTT may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
- 7.4.3 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment ITTF-PTT becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances ITTF-PTT will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.5 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply ITTF-PTT with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
 - 7.5.1 The relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to ITTF-PTT, upon completing the registration of an Athlete for a sanctioned competition.
 - 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.
 - 7.5.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by ITTF-PTT.
- 7.6 ITTF-PTT may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the ITTF-PTT at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7 If ITTF-PTT requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:



- 7.8.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.8.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
- 7.8.3 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings.
- 7.8.4 If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 7.8.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.8.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 7.8.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee. The National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.8.8 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.



- 7.8.9 The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.9 ITTF-PTT may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

8 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 ITTF-PTT has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 8.3 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to each sport and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.5 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the ITTF-PTT that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.6 In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, ITTF-PTT has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows: Minimum Impairment Criteria must *not* consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;



9 Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by ITTF-PTT in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to a sport.
- 9.1.1 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules.
- 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by ITTF-PTT (in accordance with Article 18.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

10 Classification Not Completed

- 10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation ITTF-PTT or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the ITTF-PTT Classification Master List. An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in Para Table Tennis.



Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

11 The Classification Panel

11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by ITTF-PTT to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

General Provisions

11.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least of two certified Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier.

11.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation. Trainee Classifier may take part on the deliberations but, under no circumstances, he or she will take part on the decisions.

12 Classification Panel Responsibilities

12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:

12.1.1 assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Table Tennis;

12.1.2 assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Table Tennis; and

12.1.3 conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.

12.2 Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).

12.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by ITTF-PTT, unless ITTF-PTT requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.

12.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.



- 12.4.1 Although other factors such as height differences within normal values, low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of Para Table Tennis, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 12.5 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.
- 12.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendices One and Two.

13 Evaluation Sessions

- 13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2 The Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3 In respect of Athletes:
 - 13.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.
 - 13.3.2 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
 - 13.3.3 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Consent Form as specified by ITTF-PTT.
 - 13.3.4 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card or event accreditation.
 - 13.3.5 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to Para Table Tennis.
 - 13.3.6 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.



- 13.3.7 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:
- 13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by ITTF-PTT. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 13.3.1 above.
- 13.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.4.4 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Body, National Paralympic Committee and ITTF-PTT (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

14 Observation in Competition

- 14.1 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 14.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendices One and Two.



- 14.3 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
- 14.5.1 First Appearance includes all the matches an Athlete competes in a Single Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
 - 14.5.2 First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.
- 14.6 If an Athlete is:
- a) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
 - b) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
 - c) pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,
- Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).
- 14.6.1 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.
- 14.7 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the ITTF-PTT Rules and Regulations.



15 Sport Class Status

- 15.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 15.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
- Confirmed (C)
 - Review (R)
 - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Sport Class Status New

- 15.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by ITTF-PTT prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless ITTF-PTT specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 15.4 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Table Tennis are and will remain stable.
- 15.4.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 19), Medical Review (Article 31) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 15.7)).
- 15.4.2 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).



Sport Class Status Review

- 15.5 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 15.5.1 A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by ITTF-PTT; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.
- 15.5.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless ITTF-PTT specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

- 15.6 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
- 15.6.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
- 15.6.2 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
- 15.6.3 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

Changes to Sport Class Criteria

- 15.7 If ITTF-PTT changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:



- 15.7.1 ITTF-PTT may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
- 15.7.2 ITTF-PTT may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 15.7.3 in both instances the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

16 Multiple Sport Classes

- 16.1 This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class.

Multiple Eligible Impairments

- 16.2 An Athlete who has a Physical and Intellectual Impairment may be eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:
 - 16.2.1 the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must notify ITTF-PTT as to the Athlete's Eligible Impairments and the Athlete's eligibility to be allocated more than one Sport Class in respect of those Impairment types, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;
 - 16.2.2 the Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple Impairments, either at the relevant Competition or the subsequent Competition;
 - 16.2.3 at the conclusion of the Evaluation Sessions referred to in Article 16.2.2 the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in ('the preferred Sport Class'). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance;



- 16.2.4 the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable ITTF-PTT Rules and Regulations (including but not limited to those in relation to the use of equipment, the weight of equipment, and the use of guides); and
- 16.2.5 the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.

Athletes with Physical Impairment

- 16.3 An Athlete who has a Physical Impairment may be allocated more than one Sport Class relevant to that Physical Impairment subject to any applicable ITTF-PTT Rules and Regulations.
- 16.4 Any such Athlete must not be allocated more than one Sport Class if the combination of those Sport Classes would allow the Athlete to compete sitting in one Event, and standing in another Event, at the same Competition.

Changing Sport Class

- 16.5 An Athlete who has a Physical and Intellectual Impairment may request to change his or her preferred Sport Class:
 - a) at the end of the season when the Athlete's first Evaluation Session was completed; or
 - b) after the close of the Paralympic Games and before the start of the next season thereafter.
- 16.6 A request to change a preferred Sport Class must be made to ITTF-PTT by the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee. The application must be submitted to ITTF-PTT in accordance with the time frame identified under Article 16.5.
- 16.7 Nothing in this Article 16 precludes an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request at any time in respect of any Sport Class.

17 Notification

- 17.1 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Body or National Paralympic Committee and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.



- 17.2 ITTF-PTT must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List at ITTF-PTT website.



Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

18 Sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

18.1 If ITTF-PTT determines that an Athlete:

18.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition,

ITTF-PTT must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

18.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

Absence of Eligible Impairment

18.3 If ITTF-PTT determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:

18.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and

18.3.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by ITTF-PTT.

18.4 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, ITTF-PTT may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.

18.5 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by ITTF-PTT or a Classification Panel (if delegated by ITTF-PTT) because that Athlete has

18.5.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.5.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport.



Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 18.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 18.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 18.6.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 18.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 18.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 18.9 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Para Table Tennis.



Part Six: Protests

Protests

19 Scope of a Protest

- 19.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 19.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

20 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

- 20.1 a National Body (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.2 a National Paralympic Committee (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.3 ITTF-PTT (see Articles 23-24).

21 National Protests

- 21.1 A National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 21.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 17 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition a National Protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of that outcome being published.
- 21.3 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.



22 National Protest Procedure

- 22.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by ITTF-PTT at the Competition and via ITTF-PTT website, and must include the following:
- 22.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
 - 22.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - 22.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body or National Paralympic Committee believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 22.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
 - 22.1.5 the Protest Fee set by ITTF-PTT.
- 22.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by ITTF-PTT. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with ITTF-PTT, of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 22.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 22; or
 - 22.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 22.
- 22.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 22.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 22.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review.



- 22.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
- 22.4.3 ITTF-PTT must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

23 ITTF-PTT Protests

- 23.1 ITTF-PTT may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
 - 23.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
 - 23.1.2 a National Body or National Paralympic Committee makes a documented request to ITTF-PTT. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of ITTF-PTT.

24 ITTF-PTT Protest Procedure

- 24.1 If ITTF-PTT decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 24.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 24.3 If ITTF-PTT makes a Protest:
 - 24.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
 - 24.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
 - 24.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.



25 Protest Panel

- 25.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 25 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 25.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 25.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
 - 25.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
 - 25.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the National Body, National Paralympic Committee or ITTF-PTT (whichever is relevant).
- 25.4 The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 25.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 25.6 The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 25.7 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an ITTF-PTT Protest is final. A National Body, National Paralympic Committee or ITTF-PTT may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.

26 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 26.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
 - 26.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport



Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and

- 26.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

27 Special Provisions

- 27.1 ITTF-PTT may make arrangements (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, ITTF-PTT must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

Application during Major Competitions

28 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

- 28.1 The IPC and/or ITTF-PTT may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.



Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session

29 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 29.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 29.2 An Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 29.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 29.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

30 Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 30.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 30.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
 - 30.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 30.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
 - 30.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;



- 30.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - 30.1.6 the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
 - 30.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 30.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 30.2.1 an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee;
 - 30.2.2 if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
 - 30.2.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 30.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.
- 30.4 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.



Part Eight: Medical Review

31 Medical Review

- 31.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 31.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by Para Table Tennis in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to aging, levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 31.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee (together with a €100 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed.
- 31.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by ITTF-PTT as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 31.5 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 31.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 31.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Body, National Paralympic Committee or ITTF-PTT may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.



Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

32 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 32.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 32.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 32.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by ITTF-PTT to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 32.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
- 32.4.1 disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
 - 32.4.2 being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
 - 32.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
 - 32.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period.
- 32.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.



- 32.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.
- 32.7 If another International Sports Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by ITTF-PTT.
- 32.8 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of ITTF-PTT.
- 32.9 Any disciplinary action taken by ITTF-PTT pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.



Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

33 Classification Data

- 33.1 ITTF-PTT may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 33.2 All Classification Data Processed by ITTF-PTT must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

34 Consent and Processing

- 34.1 Subject to Article 34.3, ITTF-PTT may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 34.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 34.3 ITTF-PTT may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

35 Classification Research

- 35.1 ITTF-PTT may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 35.2 The use by ITTF-PTT of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 35.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to ITTF-PTT solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 35.4 ITTF-PTT may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If ITTF-PTT wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.



36 Notification to Athletes

- 36.1 ITTF-PTT must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
- 36.1.1 that fact that ITTF-PTT is collecting the Classification Data; and
 - 36.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
 - 36.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

37 Classification Data Security

- 37.1 ITTF-PTT must:
- 37.1.1 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
 - 37.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

38 Disclosures of Classification Data

- 38.1 ITTF-PTT must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.
- 38.2 ITTF-PTT may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

39 Retaining Classification Data

- 39.1 ITTF-PTT must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.



- 39.2 ITTF-PTT must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 39.3 ITTF-PTT must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

40 Access Rights to Classification Data

- 40.1 Athletes may request from ITTF-PTT:
 - 40.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that ITTF-PTT Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
 - 40.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by ITTF-PTT; and/or
 - 40.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by ITTF-PTT.
- 40.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

41 Classification Master Lists

- 41.1 ITTF-PTT must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 41.2 ITTF-PTT must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on the ITTF-PTT website.



Part Eleven: Appeals

42 Appeal

42.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

43 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

43.1 An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:

- 43.1.1 a National Body; or
- 43.1.2 a National Paralympic Committee.

44 Appeals

- 44.1 If a National Body or National Paralympic Committee considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.
- 44.2 The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.
- 44.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

45 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

45.1 The IPC and/or ITTF-PTT may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.



Part Twelve: Glossary

Adaptive Equipment: Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

Appeals: The process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in Para Table Tennis at the international level (as defined by ITTF-PTT) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in Para Table Tennis at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

BAC: The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

Chief Classifier: A classifier appointed by ITTF-PTT to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

Classification: Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

Classification Data: Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

Classification Intelligence: Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

Classification Master List: A list made available by the ITTF-PTT that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.



Classification Not Completed: the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of ITTF-PTT.

Classification Organisation: Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by ITTF-PTT, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel: Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

Classification Rules: Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by ITTF-PTT in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classification System: The framework used by ITTF-PTT to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para sport.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by ITTF-PTT to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Classifier Certification: The processes by which ITTF-PTT must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

Classifier Competencies: The qualifications and abilities that ITTF-PTT deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for Para Table Tennis.

Classifier Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by ITTF-PTT.

Code: The Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Compliance: The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'



Continuing Education: The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by ITTF-PTT to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in Para Table Tennis.

Diagnostic Information: Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables ITTF-PTT to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para Table Tennis, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

Eligibility Assessment Committee: An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

Entry Criteria: Standards set by ITTF-PTT relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

Entry-level Education: the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by ITTF-PTT to begin as a Classifier in Para Table Tennis.

Evaluation Session: the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Table Tennis; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Table Tennis. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

Event: A single match, game or singular sport contest.

First Appearance: The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

Fixed Review Date: A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

Head of Classification: A person appointed by ITTF-PTT to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for ITTF-PTT.

Health Condition: A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.



Intellectual Impairment: A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills that originates before the age of eighteen (18).

Intentional Misrepresentation: A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Body as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para Table Tennis and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

International Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

International Sport Federation: A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

International Standards: A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

ITTF: International Table Tennis Federation.

ITTF-PTT: Para Table Tennis Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation.

Maintaining Certification: The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

Major Competition Organiser: An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

Medical Diagnostics Form: a form that a National Body or National Paralympic Committee must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

Medical Review: The process by which ITTF-PTT identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

Medical Review Request: A request made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.



Models of Best Practice: An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

National Body: Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation.

National Laws: The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

National Paralympic Committees: The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

National Protest: A Protest made by a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

Non-Competition Venue: Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by ITTF-PTT as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

Observation in Competition: The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Table Tennis.

Paralympic Games: Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Permanent: The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

Personal Information: Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

Physical Impairment: an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

Process/Processing: The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

Protested Athlete: An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

Protested Decision: The Sport Class decision being challenged.



Protest Documents: The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

Protest Fee: The fee prescribed by ITTF-PTT, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

Protest Form: The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

Protest: The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Protest Panel: A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest

Re-certification: The process by which ITTF-PTT must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

Recognised Competition: A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by ITTF-PTT.

Research Purposes: Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

Signatories: Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

Sport Class: A category for Competition defined by ITTF-PTT by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by Para Table Tennis.

Sport Class Status: A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA): a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

Underlying Health Condition: a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.



Appendix One

Athletes with Physical Impairment

1 Eligible Impairment Types

The following physical impairment types are eligible in Para Table Tennis:

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>
<p>Leg Length Difference</p> <p>Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Leg Length Difference include: dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth.</p>



Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p>Short Stature</p> <p>Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyriposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p>



2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

For an Athlete to be considered as Eligible in Para Table Tennis, he or she must be affected by, at least, one of the eligible impairments listed in the previous section. The severity of the affection must fulfil the criteria that are described in the rest of this section. As table tennis is an asymmetrical sport in the use of the limbs, for some Eligible Impairments, the criteria may differ depending on the affected limb.

2.1 Impaired muscle power

Affected limbs	Minimal Impairment Criteria
Playing arm	Weakness of the hand that affects TT functions, such as grip, power and movements.
Non Playing Arm	Paralysis of the arm with some residual functions (brachial plexus lesion). Loss of 30 points in MMT distributed in the whole arm
Lower Limbs	Loss of more than 10 points in MMT in one lower limb distributed over the whole leg. The loss of 10 points over two legs is not considered to meet this minimal impairment criterion.

2.2 Limb deficiency

Affected limbs	Minimal Impairment Criteria
Playing arm	Finger amputations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of 6 phalanges in the 4th and 5th finger or • Loss of 5 phalanges in the 2nd and 3rd fingers or • Loss of 2 phalanges in the 1st finger and part of the 1st MCP bone without enough support for the racket.
Non Playing Arm	Amputation below the elbow with a stump length less than the 2/3 of the the length of the ulna or comparable malformations (dysmelia)



Lower Limbs	Amputation of forefoot through all metatarsals (minimal 1/3 of foot amputated) or comparable malformations (dysmelia)
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2.3 Leg Length Difference

Athletes affected by a leg length difference greater than 7 cm are Eligible. Measurement is done with the athlete lying supine and measuring from the ASIS to the medial malleolus.

2.4 Short Stature

Athletes affected by Short Stature are Eligible depending on their standing height:

- male: 140 cm and less
- female: 137 cm and less

Class allocation for Athletes affected by Short Stature start in class 10 but as a result of other impairments, they may be considered for a lower class, e.g. normally a Athlete with a single BK amputation is class 9 but short stature plus BK amputation is class 8.

2.5 Hypertonia

In Para Table Tennis, spasticity grades refer to the Ashworth scale:

- Grade 0: No increase in tone
- Grade 1: Slight increase in tone giving a "catch" when the limb is flexed or extended
- Grade 2: More marked increase in tone, but limb is easily flexed or extended
- Grade 3: Considerable increase in tone with passive movement difficult
- Grade 4: Limb rigid in flexion or extension

Hypertonia is defined as increased muscle tone which is caused by central nervous system impairment and which results in increased resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle. One of the following types of hypertonia must be



clearly clinically detectable – i.e., grade 1 on the Ashworth scale at the wrist, elbow, shoulder, ankle, knee or hip.

Spastic hypertonia: Is defined as a velocity-dependent resistance to passive movement with a clasp-knife type of resistance. Clasp-knife resistance is resistance that is initially high and followed by a sudden relaxation. Velocity dependence increases as the speed of the passive movement increases, the resistance becomes greater and starts earlier in the range.

Spastic hypertonicity tends to predominate in the antigravity muscles particularly the flexors of the arms and extensors of the legs and may affect certain parts of the body more than others. In classification, testing for Spastic hypertonicity involves rapid, passive movement through the principal ranges of movement at the wrist, elbow, shoulder, ankle, knee or hip. Athletes with clearly clinically detectable Spastic hypertonicity are eligible.

When testing for Spastic hypertonicity at the ankle or wrist, clonus may be elicited. Clonus is rapid, involuntary alternation of muscle contraction and relaxation and typically occurs in the ankle plantar flexors in response to rapid, passive dorsiflexion or the wrist flexors in response to rapid, passive wrist extension. Clonus that lasts for 4 beats or more and which can be reliably reproduced during a single classification session (i.e., is non-damping clonus) is considered to indicate presence of Spastic hypertonicity that meets the MIC.

Rigidity: Is defined as a heightened resistance to passive movement of a limb that is independent of the velocity of stretch and relatively uniform throughout the range of motion of that limb. The uniform resistance is often referred to as 'lead pipe' type of resistance. Usually has a predominant pattern with a flexor pattern being more common.

Dystonia: Is resistance to passive movement that may be focal (affecting muscles of one limb or joint) or general (affecting the whole body). Contractions are powerful and sustained and cause twisting or writhing of the affected areas (Dystonia may equally be classified as a type of Hypertonia OR a type of involuntary movement pattern). The pattern is highly variable – contractions may be fast or slow; painful or not; and the direction of greatest resistance may change regularly (e.g., a limb may move regularly from an extreme flexion pattern to an extreme extension pattern).

An athlete who does not have one of the three types of Hypertonia – Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia – is not eligible. The Classification Panel should be satisfied that the resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle is due to central nervous system impairment and the following signs may be useful in this regard:

- Presence of non-damping clonus on the side on which the tone is increased;
- Abnormally brisk reflexes in the limb in which the tone is increased;
- Mild atrophy in the limb in which the tone is increased;
- Positive Babinski on the side in which the tone is increased.



An Athlete with very mild hypertonia (either presenting hemiparesis or monoplegia) with the result of having a normal playing arm with minimal problems on one leg or one arm is Eligible and may be allocated in class 10.

2.6 **Ataxia**

Ataxia refers to an unsteadiness, incoordination or clumsiness of volitional movement. Eligible ataxias must result from either motor or sensory nervous system dysfunction. Motor ataxias most frequently result from malformation or damage to the cerebellum and are often associated with hypotonia. Motor ataxias are poorly compensated for by visual input. Sensory ataxias most frequently result from lower motor neuron damage or spinal cord disease, affecting vestibular function or proprioceptive function. Visual input can help compensate for sensory ataxia and so sensory ataxias are often more evident when eyes are closed.

When evaluating an athlete the Classification Panel should be satisfied that the ataxic movement is demonstrable and clearly evident during classification and that the observed ataxia is due to motor or sensory nervous system dysfunction as described. Tests that may be useful for determining this include but are not limited to:

- Finger-to-nose test (athlete touching own nose from the crucifix position);
- Finger-to-finger test (classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the athlete to touch it with his/her own index finger);
- Toe-to-finger test (classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the athlete to touch it with his/her toe);
- Heel shin test (i.e., draw the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral shin, from ankle to knee and then in the reverse direction);
- Tandem walk;
- Gait

2.7 **Athetosis**

Athetosis refers to unwanted movement and posturing resulting from damage to motor control centres of the brain, most frequently the basal ganglia. When evaluating an athlete the Classification Panel should satisfy itself that athetosis is clearly evident and that it is neurological in origin. Clearly evident athetosis is unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable as at least one of the following:

- Involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the athlete trying to remain still;



- Involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the athlete trying to remain still;
- Inability to hold the body still – swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological deficits such as vestibular or proprioceptive impairments and therefore should not be exacerbated by closing of the eyes;
- Characteristic athetoid posturing of limbs and/or trunk;

The athlete will not be eligible if athetoid movements of the face are the sole impairment.

2.8 Impaired Passive Range of Motion

Affected parts of the body	Minimal Impairment Criteria
Playing arm	Stiff wrist with functional grip Mild reduction of passive ROM of the elbow or shoulder.
Non Playing Arm	Severe restrictions in shoulder or elbow that clearly affects balance.
Lower Limbs	Single stiff ankle Moderate reduction of passive ROM in the major joints
Trunk	<u>Moderate to severe restrictions in trunk mobility</u>



3 Classification Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class

NOTE: the explanation and clarification of the examples in the classification manual and set out below can only be done by the ITTF-PTT Classification Committee and each part in italics is merely an example for that class and should be confirmed by the classification panel after observing the player in action.

CLASSIFICATION FOR SITTING CLASSES 1 TO 5

The minimal disability in sitting classes is assessed for class 5 as follows:

- The Athlete is not able to walk without support (braces or crutches).
- The Athlete is not a functional walker with or without support.
- The Athlete is not able to step sideways functionally.
- Limb deficiency of the Athlete is a single above knee amputation with stump length not longer than 1/3 (or similar dysmelia) unless there are exceptional medical circumstances.
- Limb deficiency of the Athlete is a one above knee amputation in one leg plus one below knee amputation on the other leg (or similar dysmelia).

Athletes who do not fulfil at least one of the above requirements cannot be allocated in sitting classes.

Class 1:

No sitting balance with severe reduction of function in the playing arm

- Very weak grip, weak wrist flexion, no active elbow extension because of no functional triceps
- Neck and shoulder functions are normal
- The non-playing arm takes care for the trunk position (balance function)

Examples for illustrative purposes only:

- Spinal cord lesion at C5 or higher
- Severe loss of function after polio. Loss of shoulder function may be compensated by some trunk function especially rotation



- Cerebral palsy with poor balance and significant reduction of arm co-ordination
- Any other impairment that fits in this profile

Class 2:

No sitting balance with reduction of function in the playing arm

- No normal strength of hand function
- Elbow extension is sufficient and functional (strength 4-5)
- The non-playing arm keeps the trunk in position

Examples for illustrative purposes only:

- Spinal cord lesion C6 - C7 included
- Polio with weak hand and no trunk function
- CP with less severe reductions than in class 1
- Any other impairment that fits in this profile

Class 3:

Poor to no sitting balance, although the upper part of the trunk may show activity

Normal arms, although some slight motor losses can be found in the playing hand without significant effect on table tennis skills.

The non-playing arm keeps the trunk in position

Examples for illustrative purposes only:

- Spinal cord lesion C8 - T8 included
- Polio without trunk balance and normal arm function. Some loss of function in the playing arm and-or loss of support of the non-playing arm may be compensated by preserved trunk function
- CP with some reduced trunk functions and almost normal arm function concerning speed of movement and co-ordination
- Any other impairment that fits to this profile



Class 4:

Sitting balance not optimal because of poor anchorage (stabilisation) of the pelvis

The amount of balance depends on the amount of intact abdominal and back muscles

If the higher regions of the abdominal-back muscles are intact only weak rotation is possible

More functional muscles result in forward bending with a hollow back (lordosis) and with even more muscle function sideward bending is possible with a hollow curvature of the side

Examples for illustrative purposes only:

- Spinal cord lesion T8 - L2 included
- Comparable function in polio or orthopaedic conditions
- CP with better function than class 3

Class 5:

Good to Normal function of trunk muscles

Sufficient activity of the pelvic-leg muscles giving pelvic anchorage and a bigger surface of the sitting support

Bending forward and sideward is done by a non-hollow back (normal curve)

Examples for illustrative purposes only:

- SCL L1 - S2 included
- AMP: see above.
- Any other impairment fitting in this functional profile



CLASSIFICATION FOR STANDING CLASSES 6 TO 10

Class 6:

Severe impairments of legs and arms

- severe Cerebral Palsy (CP) – hemiplegia with playing arm included
- severe CP – diplegia playing arm included
- severe CP – athetoid (involuntary slow movements)
 - abnormal strokes
 - poor balance
 - poor movements
- amputation on playing arm and leg(s) or both arms and leg(s) or similar dysmelia
- double above knee amputation (double AK) with long stumps
- single AK plus single BK (below knee amputation) with short stumps
- arthrogryposis playing arm and leg(s) or both arms and leg(s)
- muscular dystrophy of limbs and trunk or other neuromuscular disability of comparable impairment profile
- incomplete spinal cord injury of comparable profile
- a player with the handle of the racket in his or her mouth

or

Any disability with comparable functional profile

Class 7:

Very severe impairments of legs (poor static and dynamic balance)

- severe polio of both legs
- single AK plus single BK (below knee amputation) with long stumps
- incomplete spinal cord injury of comparable profile
- a player with hip disarticulation or above knee amputation with short stump not more than 1/4 without any support who plays on one leg
- single AK with short non-functional stump (less than 20%) wearing a prosthesis

or



Severe impairments of playing arm

- single AE (above elbow amputation) of playing arm or both arms
- single BE (below elbow amputation) 1/4 of forearm (the forearm = the length of the ulna)
- arthrogryphosis of arm(s)
- dysmelia of comparable profile

or

Moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia playing arm included

- mild impairment in playing arm and moderate impairment in legs
- moderate impairment in playing arm and mild impairment in legs

or

Severe CP hemiplegia or diplegia with good playing arm

- playing arm almost normal with severe problems of leg(s) movements

or

Combination of arms and legs impairments less severe than in class 6

or

Any disability with comparable functional profile

Class 8:

Moderate impairments of the legs

- one non-functional leg
 - polio on one leg
 - single AK
 - stiff hip and stiff knee (together)
 - hip luxation with visible shortening
- two moderate legs
 - polio
 - double BK



- incomplete Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), spina bifida level S1
- two stiff knees consider class 7 or 8

or

Moderate impairments of playing arm (considering that elbow and shoulder control is very important)

- single BE with long stump more than 1/3 but without functional wrist joint
- stiff elbow (concerning flexion-extension; and pronation-supination) but in functional position
- severe reduced shoulder motion (almost stiff)
- moderate arthrogryphosis of playing arm

or

Moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia with good playing arm

- playing arm almost normal with moderate problems of leg(s) movements

or

Any disability with comparable functional profile

Class 9:

Mild impairments of the leg(s)

- polio of leg(s) but with reasonable movements
- single BK
- stiff hip
- stiff knee
- severe reduction of the passive Range Of Motion (ROM) of the hip
- severe reduction of the passive ROM of the knee

or

Mild impairments of playing arm

- amputation through the hand or fingers amputation without functional grip
- stiff wrist and fingers without functional grip



- moderate reduction of the passive ROM of the elbow
- moderate reduction of the passive ROM of the shoulder

or

Severe impairments of non-playing arm

- amputation through the shoulder
- brachial plexus lesion with paralysis of the whole arm

or

Mild CP with hemiparesis or monoplegia

- almost normal playing arm with minimal problems of the legs

or

Any disability with comparable functional profile

Class 10

For an Athlete to be allocated in class 10, he or she must fulfil at least one of the Minimal Impairment Criteria described in section 2 of this appendix.



Appendix Two

Athletes with Intellectual Impairment

1 Eligible Impairment Type

- 1.1. ITTF-PTT has designated a Sport Class - Class 11- for Athletes with **Intellectual Impairment (II)**. Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.
- 1.2. Classification processes for Para Table Tennis Athletes with II include four components:
 - Minimal Impairment Criteria (INAS and ITTF-PTT responsibility respectively for 2.1 and 2.3),
 - Table tennis specific tests (ITTF-PTT)
 - Observation during a short match (ITTF-PTT)
 - Observation during competition (ITTF-PTT)

The assessment methodology is described in section 3 of this appendix.

- 1.3. Athletes with II participating in ITTF-PTT sanctioned competitions should demonstrate their weakness in table tennis skills and strategies relative to those without II, and reach overall disability level in table tennis to be eligible.

2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1. The decision about the minimal impairment criteria for Athletes with II is initiated by their inclusion in the INAS Master List following verification by the INAS international eligibility committee combined with the results achieved from the generic computer based tests.
- 2.2. Information regarding the initial eligibility, following which a Athlete is



included in the INAS Classification Master List, is available from the INAS website (<http://www.inas.org>).

- 2.3. To support the initial eligibility of an Athlete in Para Table Tennis, Athletes are also required to do a series of generic computer based tests to assess the Athlete's "sports intelligence" in the areas of reasoning, reaction time, visual-spatial abilities and working memory. The profile of a Athlete with II in Para Table Tennis, based on the results of these tests, is also used to confirm the Athlete's eligibility.
- 2.4. For ITTF-PTT, these are basic requirements equivalent to the minimal eligibility to be considered II in the context of Para Table Tennis but does not confirm it until steps 3, 4 and 5 below have been completed.

3 Assessment Methodology – TT specific tests

- 3.1. The Table Tennis Specific Tests include a series of tests on service, return service, basic table tennis skills and control test, and/or an advanced test to identify whether the II Athlete has some challenges in addressing the 3S (spin, speed and spot) and 3C (consistency, control and change) during the tests and therefore in playing table tennis. The 3S and 3C are fundamental to playing the game of table tennis.
- 3.2. The results of the Table Tennis Specific Tests are recorded in the Classification Card for Athletes with II by authorized ITTF-PTT classifiers. During the test and classification process, a classification team includes two technical classifiers, or a technical classifier and a medical classifier. The technical classifiers conduct the table tennis specific tests and both classifiers score the tests together.
- 3.3. The skill of service is the first step to compete in table tennis. The following table provides the test of service.



Testing Items	Test Instruction	Scoring
Long Back Spin to Backhand	Each service item is conducted three times. Athlete is informed to do the correct skill and allowed to practice once.	0: wrong service and wrong location of the ball or missed the service 1: poor control in service or poor location of the ball 2: good control in service and good location of the ball.
Long Back Spin to Forehand		
Short Back Spin to Backhand		
Long No Spin to Body		
Fast Ball to Forehand		
Long Side Spin to Backhand		

Note: for the service test, poor control means poor demonstration in service skills which relate to tossing the ball, hitting a ball at the right time with proper spin or speed, and performing the playing arm's movements correctly; poor location means the ball does not reach the expected area on the table.

3.4. Return service is the next important skill in competition. The following table provides the test of return service.

Testing Items	Test Instruction	Scoring
Long Back Spin to Backhand	Each return service item is conducted three times. Athlete is informed to do the correct skill and allowed to practice once.	0: wrong control in stroke and miss the ball 1: poor control in stroke or poor location of the ball 2: good control in stroke and good location of the ball.
Long Back Spin to Forehand		
Short No Spin to Forehand		
Long Top Spin to Forehand		
Fast Ball to Backhand		
Long Side Spin to Backhand		



Note: for the return service test, poor control means poor demonstration in return service skills which relate to hitting a ball at the right time or with the right angle of the racket, and performing body and playing arm's movements appropriately; poor location means the ball does not reach the expected area or direction on the table.

3.5. Basic table tennis skills and control test is the main part of table tennis classification for Athletes with II. The basic skills and control test is strongly related to the theoretical framework of 3S and 3C principles in table tennis classification. The following table provides basic skills and control test.

Basic Skills & Control Items	Test Instruction	Scoring
Forehand Stroke & Rally	A technical classifier asks the II Athlete to play using certain types of table tennis skills a few times and to try to make a consistent rally. The Athlete's coach demonstrates a trial and classifiers clearly explain the testing skill to the II Athlete.	None (N): wrong stroke and cannot control the ball on the table
Backhand Stroke & Rally		
Forehand Top Spin & Rally		
Backhand Top Spin & Rally		Poor (P): poor stroke and/or may not consistently control the ball on the table
Forehand Back Spin & Rally		
Backhand Back Spin & Rally		
Forehand Side Spin & Rally		
Forehand and Backhand Stroke & Rally		Reasonable (R): may do the stroke and/or reasonable control of the ball on the table
Forehand and Backhand Back Spin & Rally		
Forehand Top Spin around 2/3 Table & Rally		Good (G): good stroke and good control of the ball on the table.
Service and Attack & Leg Movements		
High Ball Attack & Leg Movements		



3.6. An Athlete with II who performs well in the tests of service, return service, basic table tennis skills and control test (i.e. two components are over the cut-off scores), based on the 3S and 3C principles, must participate in the advanced test. If one component exceeds the cut-off scores and the other component is close to the cut-off scores, classifiers may recommend that this Athlete should go through the advanced test. The following table provides the basic cut-off points for two main components.

Component	Maximal Scores	Cut-Off Scores
Service and Return Service	72	≥ 60
Basic Skills and Control	12 items is good (i.e. 36 points)	≥ 8 items is good & ≥ 3 items is reasonable (i.e. ≥ 30 points)

3.7. Athletes with II may participate in the advanced test if the classification team believes that the Athlete may be borderline to be eligible in Para Table Tennis. The Athlete needs to be video recorded during the advanced test. The following table provides the advanced test and the testing items:

Advanced Skills & Control	Test Instruction	Scoring
Combination of several kinds of Table Tennis skills during rallies	A technical classifier asks the II Athlete to play using certain types of table tennis skills a few times and to try to make a consistent rally.	Classifiers score "none, poor, reasonable, or good" for each item and write comments regarding the advanced test.
Returning different kinds of service for a few times		
Multi-ball test		
Specific Table Tennis gross motor test		

Note: The detailed testing items and explanation for each advanced test refers to the ITTF-PTT classification system for Athletes with II.



4 Observation During A Short Match

- 4.1. Every Athlete goes through a set or two sets of a short match to make sure that the II Athlete knows the Table Tennis game, how he or she performs and his or her playing style during the short match.
- 4.2. A technical classifier plays different kinds of services and rallies with different speeds and spins to try to find out the Athlete's abilities, skills, tactics and movement control. All are critical in table tennis, and as an indication of the Athlete's ability to process information quickly or more slowly, are considered and observed.
- 4.3. During the short match with video recording, classifiers observe the Athlete's reactions and control, playing strokes and movement patterns (3S & 3C), specific strategy (4S) and tactics, and behavior. Comments are recorded on the classification card.

5 Observation during Competition

- 5.1. This observation process during competition is to make sure that the II Athlete performs similar playing styles as demonstrated during the classification process. Confirmation of the II class is done after observation during competition. Every Athlete is observed during at least two matches with different opponents.
- 5.2. Classifiers need to record the results on the observation checklist. The checklist is provided in the following table. After two games observed by classifiers, the Athlete's eligibility and status is finalized.



Observation	Items	Scoring
1	Playing style matches the test results	Classifiers complete each observation item with choosing scoring rank (i.e., 0%-25%, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, or 76%-100%)
	Playing style is similar to the short match	
	Strong part of the test always appears in competition	
	Weak part of the test always appears in competition	
	Playing similar style in each set	
2	Playing style matches the test results	
	Playing style is similar to the short match	
	Strong part of the test always appears in competition	
	Weak part of the test always appears in competition	
	Playing similar style in each set	

- 5.3. An Athlete may be video recorded for a few matches. If the Athlete does not match the TT criteria for II after observation, video proof should be provided to the Athlete. The Athlete is informed that he or she is not eligible after observation during competition in this case. The Athlete will not be allowed to participate in further ITTF-PTT competitions.

6 Sport Class Not Eligible

- 6.1. An eligible Athlete with II will demonstrate weakness in table tennis skills and limitations regarding 3S and 3C in table tennis, during classification and competition.



- 6.2. An Athlete found “Not Eligible” to compete or “borderline to be eligible” during classification will attend the advanced test and a two-set short match with a video record. For the detailed cut-off criteria refer to 3.6. If a similar result is found during the advanced test and a short match, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete in ITTF-PTT tournaments. The Athlete is allowed to protest once in the next major tournament with a different classification panel.

- 6.3. If an Athlete is recognized as Not Eligible during observation in the competition by ITTF-PTT classifiers but after the tests have been completed, this Athlete must attend the advanced test and a two-set short match with a video record at the earliest opportunity with a new classification panel. If the re-assessment result is the same as the previous classification evaluation, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete in ITTF-PTT tournaments. The Athlete will not have a further right to protest. The Not Eligible Sport Class of this Athlete in Para Table Tennis will be reported to the ITTF-PTT. The Athlete and his or her coach may be charged with misrepresentation during classification at the discretion of the ITTF-PTT.

- 6.4. If an Athlete is found Eligible to compete following the classification process and at a later competition, demonstrates different results from the tests performed during the first classification, the Athlete will be reviewed at the same event if possible or at the next earliest opportunity. If the re-assessment, using the advanced test and a check of the video record, if any, does not confirm the Athlete’s eligibility to compete, the Athlete and his or her coach will be informed and the ITTF-PTT may consider further action.



7 Conclusion

In the context of table tennis, the following abilities are critical to playing the game at a competition level:

- 7.1. Reaction to speed of the ball, spin of the ball and location of the ball.
- 7.2. Adaptation of strategy and tactics, e.g. in the same rally, changing from defense to attack and vice versa.
- 7.3. Adaptation of strokes, i.e. changing the service style without an ability to adapt either style or position of serving.
- 7.4. Movement behind the table as footwork is important.
- 7.5. Concentration and tendency to be distracted from the game, e.g. by outside noises, music, other matches.

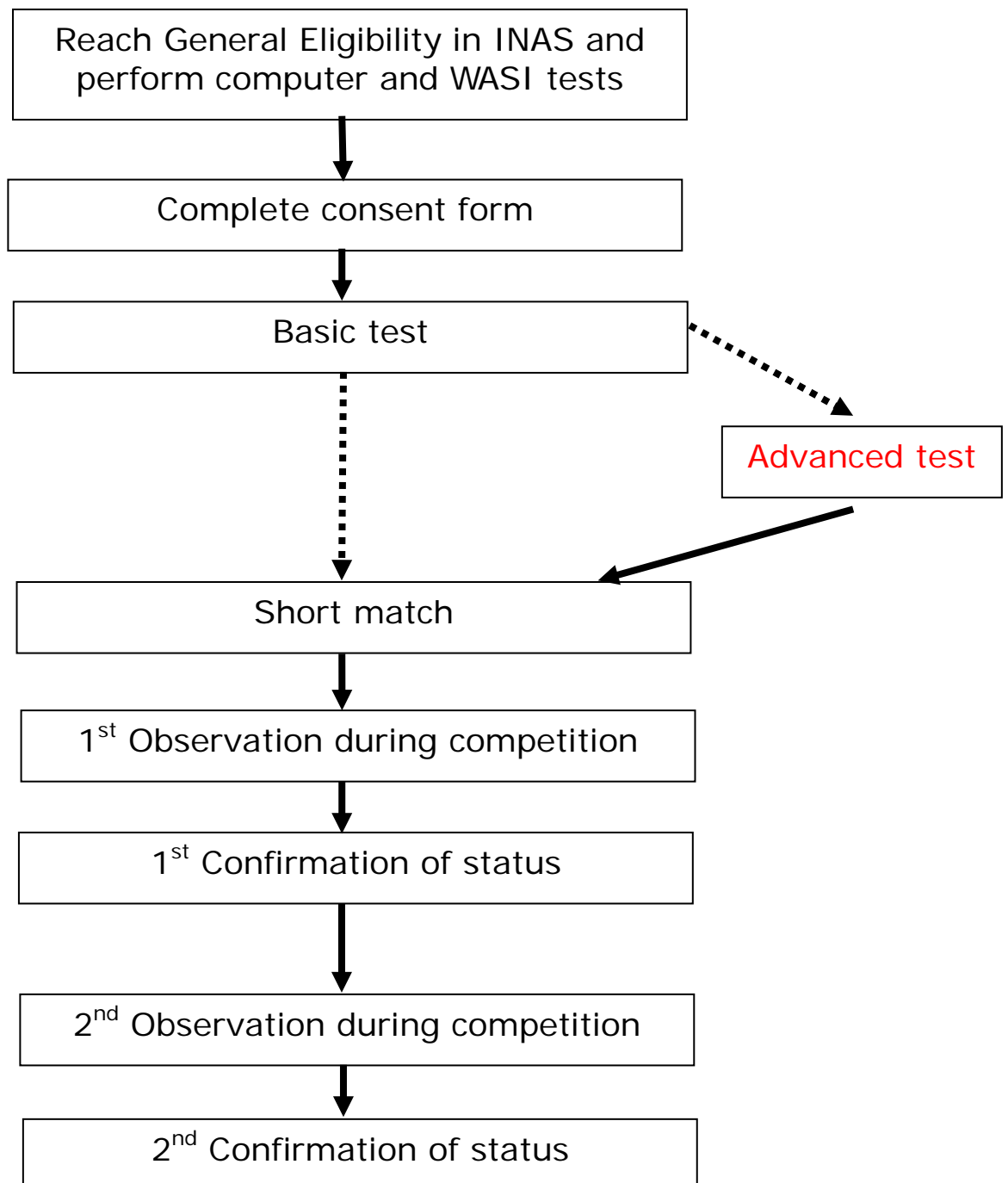
These aspects of “sports intelligence” viz. reasoning, reaction time, visual-spatial abilities and working memory are assessed through the practical tests undertaken in the classification process and checked during the observation phase.

In the context of II in table tennis, an Athlete with II will demonstrate deficiencies in any or all of these areas relative to Athletes without II. This is indicative of the Athlete’s ability to process information quickly and accurately and therefore of the Athlete’s intellectual impairment.



Diagram 1

Table Tennis Specific Test and Classification Process for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment





Appendix Three

1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Visual Impairment;
- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

2 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above Appendices Appendix One, Appendix Two and/or Appendix Three) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do *not* lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial *pain-dysfunction* syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.



An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.