



CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

FOR THE TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

JULY 2021

Version 2

SUMMARY

This Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Classification Guide is designed to provide National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and International Federations (IFs) with information about the classification policies and procedures for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

All information contained in this guide was correct at the time of publication, in July 2021. If necessary, updates will be made, and a new version circulated.

The official language of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is English. In translated versions of this guide, the English version shall prevail in case of discrepancy.

This guide covers the classification regulations for the assessment of athletes in the eight sports on the Games programme for which the Games-time classification activities are provided. These are:

- Athletics (physical and intellectual impairment);
- Boccia;
- Canoe;
- Cycling (track and road, physical impairment);
- Rowing (physical impairment);
- Sitting volleyball;
- Wheelchair rugby; and
- Wheelchair tennis.

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1 SCOPE OF THE GUIDE

This guide is based on the following principles:

1. The IPC is the supreme authority of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
2. The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are governed by the IPC Handbook <https://www.paralympic.org/ipc-handbook>.
3. The planning and implementation of the Games is a shared responsibility between the IPC and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020), in cooperation with the IFs who have jurisdiction over their sports on the Games programme.
4. The relevant governing body of each sport (the IF) is responsible for the allocation and verification of the athlete's sport class and sport class status as set out in the IF's classification rules.
5. All relevant Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games policies and regulations are respected and adhered to. These, for example, include:
 - Tokyo 2020 Qualification Regulations ([link](#));
 - The Playbook for International Federations ([link](#));
 - The Playbook for Athletes and Officials ([link](#)); and
 - IPC Classification Hygiene and Infection Control Guidelines ([link](#)).

This guide applies to all sports on the Paralympic programme and is valid for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games only. For all matters not specified in this guide, the IF classification rules, and ultimately the IPC Athlete Classification Code ([link](#)), shall apply.

2 TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES ZERO CLASSIFICATION POLICY

2.1 BACKGROUND

The 'zero classification policy' was first introduced in 2014 as a strategic decision to minimise Games-time classification to reduce the impact of any last-minute classification decisions on athletes' well-being and preparation for the pinnacle event of their career. This decision also helped to reduce the operational impact on the Games and the competition schedule (e.g., safeguarding event viability). Consequently, Tokyo 2020 had not planned any classification activities for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

2.2 SPORTS WITH CLASSIFICATION IN TOKYO

In March 2021, the IPC Governing Board made a decision to set aside the 'zero classification policy' for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in relation to ten identified sports. This represents a one-time measure to help address the unique set of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and can only be implemented for these sports. Out of the initially identified ten sports, eight have confirmed Games-time classification, these are: athletics, boccia, canoe, cycling (track and road), rowing, sitting volleyball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

This decision has been made in consultation with the IFs and with the agreement of Tokyo 2020 to cooperate in scoping for and delivering the necessary services to carry out classification activities at the Games. Further information on the Games-time classification opportunity for each of these sports is further explained in the next sections of this Guide.

For these eight sports, an exception will be made to the athlete eligibility criteria set out in the Tokyo 2020 Qualification Regulations, to allow NPCs to select athletes who will require classification in Tokyo, subject to the outcome of that classification. Further details of this are provided in section 4 of this Guide below.

2.3 SPORTS WITH NO CLASSIFICATION IN TOKYO

For all other sports (those being: archery, badminton, equestrian, football 5-a-side, goalball, judo, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, triathlon, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair fencing, as well as vision impairment classification across sports), the 'zero classification policy' remains in place, and no classification opportunities will be provided in Tokyo. For athletes competing in these sports, the athlete eligibility criteria from the Tokyo 2020 Qualification Regulations also remain in place, meaning only athletes with an international sport class and a sport class status of either *Confirmed (C)* or *Review with a review date after 31 December 2021 (R2022 or later)* are eligible for selection by an NPC for Tokyo. More detail can be found in the Tokyo 2020 Qualification Regulations ([link](#)).

3 CLASSIFICATION AT THE TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

The next sections of this Guide cover the processes for the assessment of athletes for the eight sports for which the 'zero classification policy' in Tokyo has been disapplied: athletics (physical and intellectual impairment), boccia, canoe, cycling (track and road, physical impairment), rowing (physical impairment), sitting volleyball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

All operations are based on the objective of providing the best possible working environment that ensures classification for those athletes required to be present, with minimal interruption to the athlete preparation and other Games operations.

3.1 PRE-GAMES CLASSIFICATION ACTIVITIES

The IFs are responsible for offering classification opportunities throughout the Paralympic cycle so that athletes have a fair chance of meeting the qualification criteria. The NPCs are responsible for ensuring their athletes attend these classification opportunities in due time.

Each IF is responsible for ensuring its classification master list is accurate, updated and is made available to the NPCs, Tokyo 2020 and the IPC. The classification master list is the only valid list that identifies the sport class and the sport class status of each athlete set to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The NPCs are responsible for verifying their athletes' classification information on the relevant IF classification master list. The NPCs must contact the relevant IF in case the classification master list contains incorrect information (name, sport class, sport class status) and/or if an athlete is not included on the relevant list.

The deadline for final sport entries is 2 August 2021. Tokyo 2020 will retrieve classification information from the IF classification master list after this date.

Any subsequent updates to the athlete sport class and/or sport class status must be submitted to the IPC and Tokyo 2020 by the respective IF.

NPCs are requested to familiarise themselves with this guide and ensure that athletes attend classification as scheduled, bring required medical documentation, outfits and/or equipment as required by the IF rules and participate fully in the classification activities as requested by the IF classifiers.

3.2 CLASSIFICATION REPRESENTATIVE

AUTHORISED

NPCs must nominate a Classification Authorised Representative for each sport in which they have athletes requiring classification. The Chef de Mission, Deputy Chef de Mission and Classification Authorised Representative take sole responsibility for communication with the IF, the IPC and Tokyo 2020 on classification matters.

NPCs must inform the IPC of their Classification Authorised Representative nominations by **6 August** via the Classification Authorised Representative form attached to this guide ([link](#)).

Only the Classification Authorised Representative will be entitled to accompany the athlete to classification as the athlete support personnel.

The Classification Authorised Representative will also serve as the direct point of contact for any classification related matters (e.g., classification outcomes, changes to the classification schedule, etc.).

4 GAMES-TIME ACTIVITIES

CLASSIFICATION

For athletes requiring Games-time classification in any of the eight sports identified below, an exception will be made to the 'athlete eligibility' criteria set out in the Tokyo 2020 Qualification Regulations ([link](#)) in respect to the following provision: "be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Fixed Review Date' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2021." This is to allow athletes to be selected by their NPC to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games on the condition they go through athlete evaluation before the competition starts, and subject to the outcome of that athlete evaluation, including the observation in competition assessment as part of athlete evaluation, if required by the IF classification rules and the classification panel.

Table A identifies which sport class status athletes may hold at the time of the sport entry deadline of 2 August in order to be eligible for Games-time classification. All athletes in these eight sports with a sport class status listed in Table A **must** be classified in Tokyo prior to competing (see section 4.2 below).

If, for any reason, such an athlete is not classified in or prior to competing in Tokyo, they will not be permitted to compete in the Games. *

Table A: Sports with Games-time classification activities and the eligible sport class status

Sport	Eligible sport class status for classification at the Games
Athletics (physical and intellectual impairment)	New, review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Boccia	Review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Canoe	Review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Cycling (track and road, physical impairment)	New, review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Rowing (physical impairment)	New, review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Sitting Volleyball	New, review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Wheelchair Rugby	New, review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022
Wheelchair Tennis	Review and review with a fixed review date earlier than 2022

**For the avoidance of doubt, athletes will be permitted to compete for purposes of observation in competition assessment as part of athlete evaluation, if required by the IF classification rules and the classification panel.*

4.1 CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD

Classification evaluation periods are scoped as classification days for each of the identified sport, depending on their specific competition dates and the number of anticipated classification days needed. These are detailed in Table B.

Athlete classification will take place at the respective sport's competition or training venue.

All athletes that are to undergo classification are required to arrive in Tokyo prior to the first day of the relevant classification evaluation period, unless communicated otherwise with the respective IF and the IPC. Details of the date and time of classification for each athlete will be communicated by each IF after the sport entry deadline of 2 August at the latest.

Athletes and NPCs, through the Chef de Mission, are responsible for ensuring athletes:

- Are present for classification 15 minutes before their scheduled classification time.
- Bring all equipment, attire and medical information as requested by the IF classification rules.
- Are accompanied by an interpreter if they do not speak English.
- Are accompanied by no more than one member of the NPC delegation (other than an interpreter) who has been identified as the Classification Authorised Representative. The athlete must be accompanied by a member of the NPC delegation if the athlete is a minor under the national laws or lacks legal capacity according to their national laws.
- Follow the relevant protocols set for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games (e.g., the Playbooks) and the respective IF classification rules.

If athletes do not meet the above requirements at the time of classification, the panel will not be able to perform classification, and consequently the athlete will not be allowed to compete at the Games. The chief classifier may decide to reschedule the athlete evaluation, time permitting.

Table B: Classification Evaluation Period and Location per Sport

SPORT	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD *
Athletics	Warm-up track at the OLS	Physical Impairment: 20-21 August
	Edogawa City T&F Stadium	Physical and intellectual impairment 22-23 August
Boccia	Ariake Gymnastic Centre	26 August
Canoe	Sea Forest Waterway	29 August
Cycling (Track)	Izu Velodrome	Physical Impairment: 22-23 August
Cycling (Road)	Fuji International Speedway	Physical Impairment: 29 August
Rowing	Sea Forest Waterway	Physical Impairment: 25-26 August
Sitting Volleyball	Makuhari Messe Hall	22-23, and 25 August
Wheelchair Rugby	Minato Training Centre	20 and 21 August
	Yoyogi National Stadium	22 and 23 August
Wheelchair Tennis	Ariake Tennis Park	23 August

* The indicated classification evaluation period does not include the observation in competition period.

For the avoidance of doubt, sports not listed in Table B do not have Games-time classification activities at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The classification schedules will be developed with two sessions per day, operating under the times identified in Table C. The final timings and the classification schedule per sport may vary from the times identified below and will be confirmed after the final sport entries deadline.

Classification outcomes will be communicated to NPCs via e-mail by respective IFs and will ordinarily be published by the times listed below at Tokyo 2020 Connect. Should any deviations from this schedule occur, these will be communicated to the NPCs by the respective IFs.

Table C: Daily Classification Session Times and Outcome Posting

SESSION TIMES	CLASSIFICATION OUTCOME POSTING DEADLINES
8:30am - 12:30pm	2:00pm
2:00pm - 6:30pm	8:00pm

4.2 CLASSIFICATION COMPETITION PERIOD: FIRST APPEARANCE

In some sports, observation in competition is part of athlete evaluation and the final sport class is only allocated after athletes have been observed during their first appearance. First appearance is the first time athletes compete in an event during the Games competition period. In team sports, first appearance must take place by the end of the preliminary rounds of competition. Athletes not observed during that period will not be eligible to compete in the elimination rounds.

Observation assessment applies only to athletes with a physical impairment (PI) or intellectual impairment (II) competing in the following sports:

- Athletics
- Boccia
- Canoe
- Cycling
- Rowing
- Sitting volleyball
- Wheelchair rugby

First appearance results will ordinarily be published at the competition venue within 15 minutes for individual sports and within one hour for team sports following the conclusion of the athlete's first appearance. Should any deviations

from these timelines occur, they will be communicated to the NPCs by the respective IFs.

Athletes requiring observation assessment will be given a tracking code 'OA' (observation assessment) in place of the sport class status following their athlete evaluation during the classification evaluation period. Upon completion of the observation assessment the athlete will be given a final sport class and sport class status, and the tracking code will be removed. In this way, the athlete, the NPC, the IF and Tokyo 2020 know when the observation assessment has been completed.

4.3 SPORT CLASS STATUS AFTER ATHLETE EVALUATION IN TOKYO

Athletes who are classified in Tokyo and allocated a sport class status other than 'Confirmed', e.g. 'Review' (R) or 'Review' with a 'Fixed Review Date' (FRD), will be permitted to compete, subject to the rules of their individual IF.

Athletes who are given a designation of 'Classification not Completed' (CNC) will not be permitted to compete until the requisite remedial action has been satisfied and athlete evaluation has been completed with a sport class allocated.

4.4 RE-ENTRY AFTER CHANGES IN SPORT CLASS

If an athlete's sport class changes as a result of Games-time classification, the athlete must re-enter in the updated sport class and will be subject to the re-entry conditions outlined in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Sport Entries Manual and the applicable IF rules and regulations.

5 ATHLETES WHO ARE FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE FOLLOWING GAMES-TIME ASSESSMENT

An athlete may be found not eligible (NE) following athlete evaluation at the Games (during classification evaluation period assessment). Athletes who are found NE on the basis of not meeting the minimum impairment criteria (MIC) will have an automatic right to a second assessment, as per the IF classification rules. Should this second assessment not be available in Tokyo, for whatever reason, the athlete will not be allowed to compete in the Games.

If the athlete is found NE following a decision by a classification panel, either because of not having an eligible impairment or not meeting the MIC, the accreditation status of the athlete will change from Athlete (Aa) to Competition Partner (Ab). The athlete will be entitled to remain a part of the delegation but may not compete. The athlete will be subject to the Period of Stay policy and required to leave the Paralympic Village or Cycling Accommodation no later than 48 hours after the last event has concluded in their sport but will be encouraged to leave earlier.

Changes do not impact the overall team size and delegation quota as finalised in the DRM process, except if the NPC has no other eligible athlete at the Games. If this is the case, the entire NPC delegation will have their accreditations cancelled and must leave the Paralympic Village/Cycling Accommodation with the athlete.*

*Time frames - as soon as possible, but no later than 12pm the next day.

6 CLASSIFICATION PROTEST

Classification panel decisions may only be challenged by protests as defined in each IF's classification rules. To be considered, all protests must be lodged in accordance with the policies and procedures detailed in this guide.

6.1 PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES

As per the IF classification rules, NPCs can only submit protests regarding their own athletes:

- During the classification evaluation period, only if the athlete has undergone athlete evaluation during this period; or
- During the competition period, only if the athlete has undergone observation assessment and the athlete has not been subject to a protest during the classification evaluation period.

6.2 PROTEST SUBMISSION BY AN NPC

If an NPC wishes to submit a protest on one of their athletes, the NPC must:

- Complete the relevant IF protest form in full and in English. This form is made available online through each IF and at the classification location during the classification evaluation period.

- Pay the applicable protest fee as required in the relevant IF's classification rules (see Table D).

Table D: Protest Fee per Sport

SPORT	PROTEST FEE (AMOUNT AND CURRENCY AS PER IF RULES)
Athletics	150 EUR
Boccia	150 GBP
Canoe	200 EUR
Cycling (Track)*	100 EUR
Cycling (Road)*	100 EUR
Rowing	100 EUR
Sitting Volleyball	200 EUR
Wheelchair Rugby	150 USD
Wheelchair Tennis	150 USD

* Protest fee for cycling (track and road) is managed through an invoice by UCI, as per the regular practice.

The protest must be submitted to the IF chief classifier (or the individual to whom this responsibility has been delegated to by the IF chief classifier) before the protest deadlines, outlined in Table E.

Table E: Deadlines for Protests

CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OUTCOMES POSTED	PROTEST DEADLINE
8:30am - 12:30pm	2:00pm	5:00pm
2:00pm - 6:30pm	8:00pm	9:00am (next day)
During competition (first appearance)	Individual sports: no later than 15 minutes after the completion of the event in which first appearance occurred Team sports: no later than one hour after the completion of the event in which first appearance occurred	Within 15 minutes after results of first appearance are posted

6.3 IF PROTESTS

An IF may, in its discretion, make a protest at any time in respect of any athlete under its jurisdiction if the IF considers an athlete may have been allocated an incorrect sport class. Each IF's classification rules provide further information on the next steps once an IF protest is lodged, including instances when a protest cannot be resolved at the Games.

7 CLASSIFICATION APPEAL

The term "classification appeal" refers to the process by which a formal objection to how athlete evaluation and/or classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Any athlete evaluation that is appealed at the Games will be dealt with as specified under the relevant IF rules.

8 IPC CLASSIFICATION HYGIENE AND INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES

All Games-related policies apply to classification activities, including the information contained within the Playbooks.

However, given that classification involves physical contact between the classification panels, athletes and athlete support personnel, specific guidelines have been developed to minimise the likelihood of infection.

The guidelines can be found here: [link](#)

9 KEY DATES

Table G: Key Dates

DATE	ACTIVITY
1 July 2021	Tokyo 2020 online entries system opened to NPCs
2 August 2021	Final sport entries deadline
6 August 2021	Deadline for NPCs to submit NPC Classification Authorised Representatives to IPC
17 August 2021	Official opening of Paralympic Village
20 - 30 August 2021	Classification evaluation period (see section 4.1 - Classification Evaluation Period and Location)
24 August 2021	Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony
5 September 2021	Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony