

## MEMO

**To:** NPC/IOSD's  
**Cc:** IPC Athletics International Classifiers  
**From:** IPC Athletics  
**Date:** 18/12/2013  
**Re:** IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations version January 2014

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IPC Athletics have published an updated version of the IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations – version January 2014, which will take effect as of 01 January 2014. This document replaces any previous version of the IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations.

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an overview of the changes made and the operational management of how these changes will be implemented.

### **1 Changes in IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations**

#### **1.1 Changes to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations Articles 1-10**

##### Regulation for choice of sport class (Article 5.25-5.26)

IPC Athletics now follow the Model of Best Practice on Choice of Sport Class for Athletes with Multiple Impairments (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3; <http://www.paralympic.org/the-ipc/handbook>) when athletes are eligible for more than one sport class, i.e. if an athlete is eligible to compete in a standing and a sitting sport class, or if an athlete has impairments of different impairment categories (physical, visual and/ or intellectual impairment).

##### Recognition of sport classes for visual impairment (VI) (Article 5.27)

If an athlete with a visual impairment and sport class status 'Review with Fixed Review Date' or 'Confirmed' holds a different and more recently allocated sport class with another IF or Sport, then IPC Athletics will adopt the sport class that indicates the most visual ability, and amend the sport class status to Review. If an athlete holds sport class status New with IPC Athletics, VI sport classes from other sports will not be accepted.

## Intentional Misrepresentation (Article 9)

IPC Athletics will now investigate and potentially sanction cases of Intentional Misrepresentation using the Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3; <http://www.paralympic.org/the-ipc/handbook>).

## **1.2 Changes to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations Appendix 1 'Athletes with Physical Impairment – Classes T/F31-38, 40-47, 51-57'**

### **F45**

Classes F45a and F45b have been merged. Athletes meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 1, Article 3.2.4.7, shall compete in class F45.

### **F47**

In 2009, the IPC Governing Board approved the changes made to the IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations, version February 2013, on the basis of the research report "IPC Athletics Classification Project for Physical Impairment" (author: Sean Tweedy). This report is available from the IPC Athletics website:

<http://www.paralympic.org/athletics/rules-and-regulations/classification>

As a result of the research report, sport class T47 was introduced in February 2013. The reason for including the types of upper limb deficiency outlined in 2.1.4.2.2 is not because they alter the biomechanics of the running action, but because they have been judged to alter the biomechanical execution of the crouch start or jumping actions in a way that is demonstrable and which will adversely affect performance. These athletes are therefore eligible to compete in running events from 100m – 400m and jumping events.

F47 was also introduced at this time for administrative purposes, however as F46 and F47 compete together under the same technical rules it is only necessary to split the T46 class.

IPC Athletics will therefore, as of 01 January 2014, remove the F47 class and all athletes meeting the minimum disability criteria (MDC) for unilateral upper limb impairment outlined in 2.2.1 shall be placed in class F46 and will retain their current sport class status (i.e. F47 Confirmed = F46 Confirmed).

### **F46**

In the previous rule book the F46 profile referred to the MDC for Wheelchair Racing, Running and Jumps. References have been aligned with the research report and now refer to the MDC for Throws.

## **F57/F58**

Due to the introduction of the new IPC Athletics Rule 35 and 36 regarding seated throws (as communicated to NPCs on 11/11/2013), classes F57 and F58 have been merged and class F58 ceases to exist. Athletes meeting the MDC as outlined in Appendix 1, Article 3.2.2.7 shall compete in class F57.

## **T45**

A change to the sport class T45 was introduced with the new IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations in February 2013, but was not highlighted in the memo announcing the update to the classification rules on 15 February 2013. In order to determine the appropriate class for each athlete, all athletes who currently hold sport class T45 with a 'Confirmed' or 'Review with Fixed Date' sport class status will be placed on review (R), taking effect on 01 January 2014.

## **Maximum Allowable Standing Height (MASH)**

Based on the research report, a new MASH formula was introduced to the February 2013 IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations. In April 2013, IPC Athletics reinstated the previous MASH formula from the September 2011 IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations (communicated to NPCs on 04/04/2013). This previous formula, based on Ulna length and Demi-Span, has been inserted back into the January 2014 rule book (Appendix 1, Article 3.1.4.2.1) until research currently in progress has been concluded. A sitting height measurement has been added for athletes with bilateral lower limb impairments in combination with deficiencies in the upper limbs which do not allow for the measurement of ulna length and/or demi-span.

### **1.3 Changes to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations Appendix 2 'Athletes with Visual Impairment – Classes T/F11-13'**

The sport class profiles for athletes with visual impairment have not changed. However, some sections of the appendix have been reworded to provide more clarity in explanation.

All athletes in class T/F11-13 classified prior to September 2011 will be put back into review (as communicated to NPCs on 12/12/2013).

## 2 Implementation of changes

2.1 Above changes that have an impact on the sport class allocation of athletes will be implemented as follows:

**F47** - For athletes previously in class F47, their sport class will be amended to F46 and the athlete will retain their current sport class status (i.e. F47 Confirmed = F46 Confirmed).

**F58** - For athletes previously in class F58, their sport class will be amended to F57 and the athlete will retain their current sport class status (i.e. F58 Confirmed (C) = F57 Confirmed (C)). Athletes previously in the F58 class will be given the right to choose a competing position (Seated or Standing) until 31 December 2014 (see choice of sport class regulation in Article 5.25-5.26 above). These athletes must submit the request for change of competing position, available from the IPC Athletics website: <http://www.paralympic.org/athletics/downloads>.

2.2 Above changes that have an impact on the sport class status of athletes in the following classes will be implemented as follows:

**T45** – All T45 athletes with sport class status ‘C’ or ‘R with Fixed Review Year’ will retain the same class but will have their sport class status reverted to ‘R’ from 1 January 2014. The deadline for T45 athletes with sport class status ‘R’ to be re-classified is 31 December 2015. T45 athletes that do not undergo classification by 31 December 2015 will have their sport class removed and will be listed with ‘CNC’ on the IPC Athletics Classification Masterlist.

**T/F11-13** - All T/F11-13 athletes classified prior to 1 September 2011 with ‘C’ or ‘R with Fixed Review Year’ will retain the same class but will have their sport class status reverted to ‘R’ from 1 January 2014 (as communicated to NPCs on 12/12/2013). The deadline for T/F11-13 athletes with sport class status “R” to be re-classified is 31 December 2015. T/F11-13 athletes that do not undergo classification by 31 December 2015 will have their sport class removed and will be listed with ‘CNC’ on the IPC Athletics Classification Masterlist.

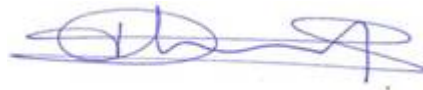
We highly recommend you to familiarize yourself with these new classification rules which enter into effect with the public release of the IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations – version 2014.

In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in contact with the Athletics Management team at [ipcathletics@paralympic.org](mailto:ipcathletics@paralympic.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Montgomery', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Montgomery  
IPC Athletics Senior Sport Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Peter Van de Vliet', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Peter Van de Vliet  
IPC Medical & Scientific Director

Cc. Ed Warner, IPC Athletics Chairperson  
Hilary Beeton, IPC Athletics Head of Classification