



## **BRITISH ROWING CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES FOR PARA-ROWING 2013**

### **PREAMBLE**

British Rowing's objective for Para-Rowing is inclusion: to provide the opportunity for rowers with a disability, both men and women, to compete at BR events. BR is responsible for the classification of Para-Rowers who wish to compete in rowing at national level.

Classification places rowers in groupings with other rowers of similar levels of functional ability to provide competition that is as fair as possible. In spite of this criteria, BR recognises and accepts that the respective classifications encompass a range of disabilities and that there will be rowers with disabilities which may be greater than the minimum and who may therefore be at a disadvantage competing in their respective sport class.

### **BR CLASSIFIERS**

A BR Classifier is one who has been approved as such by BR. There are two types of BR National Classifier:

- (1) BR Medical Classifier: a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist
- (2) BR Technical Classifier: a person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

#### Organisation of Classifiers

BR shall appoint a **BR Head of Classification** with responsibility for the overall direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for BR.

BR, in consultation with the Head of Classification, shall appoint a BR National Classifier as **Chief Classifier** for each BR event where Para-Rowing races are held. The Chief Classifier shall be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters at the event for which they are appointed.

A **BR Classification Panel** is comprised of two (2) BR Classifiers, one a Medical Classifier, and one technical Classifier for the purposes of classification of rowers.

A **BR National Classifier** is a person who has participated in a BR National Classification Workshop, has classified rowers on their own and shown competence in performing all of the classification tasks and has met the requirements of BR Head of classification to be appointed as a BR National Classifier. A BR National Classifier may be appointed to serve on a BR Classification Panel and is qualified to determine the sport class and sport class status of a rower wishing to compete at a BR event. These classifiers may also serve on a protest panel.

A **National Trainee Classifier** is a person who has attended a National Classification Workshop, delivered by BR and has not yet been certified by BR. A Trainee Classifier may not serve on a National Classification Panel and may not issue a sport class status.



## **SPORT CLASS STATUS**

Upon completion of the classification process, a rower will receive one of the following sport class statuses

### **New (N) Status**

A sport class status of "N" shall be allocated to a rower who has not been classified by a BR National Classification Panel by two National Classifiers (one Medical and one Technical). A rower with a sport class status of "N" may not compete at a FISA event, or the Paralympic Qualification Regatta or Paralympic Games Regatta.

### **Confirmed (C) Status**

A sport class status of "C" may only be allocated by a FISA International Classification Panel, none of whom shall be from the athlete's national federation. A rower with "C" status is confirmed for international competition and may compete in all FISA, Paralympic events, and international regattas permitted by their sport class and sport class status.

### **Review (R) Status**

A sport class status of "R" shall be allocated by a BR National Classification Panel to a rower where the Panel considers the rower's sport class status might change (due to a change in disability or a change in the classification process), Rowers with an "R" status may be required to undergo a further classification evaluation once a year prior to competing at a BR event.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ROWERS SEEKING A BRITISH ROWING NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION**

Before the classification process can commence, all applicants shall complete, sign, and submit to the ARA:

- *BR Classification Application Form,*
- *Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures Form,*
- *BR Consent for Para-Rowing Classification Form,*
- Documentation from a medical doctor, stipulating the cause and extent of a rower's disability and the date of the disability.

Rowers with a visual impairment or an intellectual disability must also include with their application, documentation to demonstrate that they have met the appropriate classification requirements set by BR.

## **PROCESS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY**

A Classification Panel will assess rowers with a physical disability according to the process described in the *BR Para-Rowing Classification Manual*. The process involves three parts:

- (1) Bench Test – directed by the Medical Classifier with the Technical Classifier in attendance.
- (2) Ergometer Test- directed by the Technical Classifier with the Medical Classifier in attendance.
- (3) On Water Observation- directed by both the Medical Classifier and the Technical Classifier during training and/or competition (depending on assessments of Bench Test and Ergometer Test).

If a rower has an amputation, he or she must be classified with and without their prosthesis on. The rower will be issued the more functional sport class. Rowers who use an orthosis must be classified with and without their orthosis. The rower will be issued the more functional sport class. Rower's prostheses and orthoses may not cause the rower to be issued a less functional sport class than if they row without the device



## **ELIGIBILITY**

A rower is eligible to compete as an adaptive rower if he/she is classified and issued one of the three BR sport classes below which cover the following:

- Intellectual disability
- Visual impairment
- Physical disabilities which lead to sufficient loss determined during the functional classification test.

## **SPORT CLASS**

BR recognises three (3) sport classes for adaptive rowing: LTA, TA, AS.

### **A. LTA (Includes LTA-PD, LTA-ID, LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3)**

The LTA class is for rowers with a verifiable and permanent disability who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for rowing, and who can utilise the sliding seat to propel the boat.

Eligible LTA rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputee.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CPISRA).
- Visual Impairment: 10% of vision in best eye with best correction (from visual acuity above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or a visual field of more than 5% and less than 20%)
- Intellectual impairment: INAS-FID April 2005 criteria

LTA rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following three disability groups:

#### **(1) LTA-ID Intellectual disability**

A rower must complete the BR-ID registration forms. The BR documentation must be completed and submitted to BR by the closing date for entries for the event at which the rower wishes to compete.

#### **(2) LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3 Visual impairment**

Prior to any BR event at which they wish to compete, a rower with visual impairment must have been classified by an ophthalmologist or Optometrist in one of the B3 (LTA-B3), B2 (LTA-B2) or B1 (LTA-B1) classes. The BR forms must be completed with supporting documentation and submitted to British Rowing by the closing date for entries for the event at which the rower wishes to compete.

Prior to competing at the World Rowing Championships, any Paralympic Qualification Regatta, or the Paralympic Games, all Visually Impaired rowers must undergo a classification by an IBSA Classifier. This may occur prior to or at the event during the classification evaluation period.

### **(3) LTA-PD Physical Disability**

The minimum physical disability is a full loss of three fingers on one hand, OR at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot, OR the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the *Functional Classification Test* as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities,

#### **(B). TA**

The TA class is for rowers who have functional use of the trunk and who are not able to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function or mobility of the lower limbs.

Eligible TA rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly impaired quadriceps, or
- Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or
- Combination of the above such as one leg with around knee amputation and one leg with significant quadriceps impairment; or
- Classification by the international sports federation for rowers with cerebral palsy (CPISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

#### **(C). AS**

The AS class is for rowers who have no or minimal trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only). An AS class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders. These athletes will likely also have poor sitting balance.

Eligible rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA); or
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10

#### **Rowing Outside of Assigned Sport Class:**

Rowers may compete in a *more* functional sport class than their assigned sport class, but not a *less* functional sport class. For example, a rower classified as TA may compete in LTA events, but may not compete in AS events.