U.S. Paralympics

National Classification Policies & Procedures

SOCCER
Sport Requirements for Classification – SOC

- Athletes being classified must be entered into and compete in the competition where the classification evaluation is being conducted.
- Each athlete is required to be accompanied during the classification procedure. The athlete may be accompanied by ONLY one individual (parent, guardian, coach, etc.).
- The athlete is required to complete and sign the sport Consent for Classification form prior to the commencement of the evaluation process.
- Athletes should attend classification evaluation with all necessary sports equipment and in appropriate sport-specific attire.
- If the athlete’s diagnosis or syndrome is unusual, medical documentation confirming the diagnosis is REQUIRED. Copies of documentation should be brought to the classification appointment.

Soccer National Classification Panel

A national classification panel for Soccer consists of two (2) classifiers [not from the same certification type: MD/PT/Technical].

Soccer National Classification Protest Panel

A national classification protest panel for Soccer consists of three (3) classifiers – one each of MD, PT, and Technical.

Soccer Classifier Prerequisites + Levels of Authorization

**Prerequisites for NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL Classifiers**

- Physiotherapist or Medical Doctor or Sports Technician
- Successful completion of CP-ISRA Level 1 online classification course
- Working knowledge and conversant in the English language
- Code of Conduct/Ethics agreement signed and observed at all times
- Endorsed by the relevant National Paralympic Committee (NPC) or National Sport Federation (NF)

USA National Classifiers recognized to classify nationally must meet the following requirements:

- Physiotherapist or Medical Doctor or Sports Technician
- Successful completion of CP-ISRA Level 1 online classification course

International Trainee Classifiers are those recognized by CP-ISRA as such.
Level 1 Classifiers are those authorised by CP-ISRA as such.
Level 2 Classifiers are those authorised by CP-ISRA as such.
Maintaining National Classifier Status – SOC

To maintain status as a classifier recognized to classify nationally within the USA, individuals must meet the following conditions:

- Shall take part in official classifications (either domestically or internationally) of at least 8 athletes of varying disabilities/sport classes at least once every 18 months.

Sport Specific Classifier Responsibilities – SOC

All classifiers shall be responsible to:

- Maintain confidentiality at all times
- Respond to requests for availability in a timely manner and meet established deadlines
- Respond to correspondence and requests from the U.S. Paralympics office
- Maintain a professional, courteous and respectful demeanor when interacting with athletes, coaches, parents and other constituents

For the conducting of national level classification (at designated competitions) a Chief Classifier will be appointed. The Chief Classifier shall be responsible to:

- Validate sport class status for all athletes classified at the competition
- Maintain all original classification sheets and associated classification paperwork during the event
- Submit all original classification sheets and associated classification paperwork to the U.S. Paralympics office within seven (7) days following the conclusion of the event

Classifier De-Certification

Classifiers may be decertified from the NATIONAL classification system for any of the following:

- Use of confidential classification information with the intent to benefit an individual athlete, team and/or situation
- Violation of the U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct
- Adverse finding during Background Check process
- Violation of national classification policies / procedures
- Repeated errors in allocating athlete sport class [i.e. National classifications being changed and/or overturned at the International level on a consistent basis]

International de-certification of classifiers shall be undertaken by CP-ISRA as conditions/requirements warrant such action.

USA National Classifiers – SOC

Current Head Domestic Classifier: TBD

CP-ISRA Level 2
Little, Jim (PT)

CP-ISRA Level 1
Schoenwetter, Dana (Technical)
International Sport Class Status – SOC

*International sport class status as per CP-ISRA shall include:* 

N – New: athlete has not been previously evaluated by an international classification panel as appointed by CP-ISRA. All N status athletes must complete international classification evaluation prior to competing at international competitions.

R – Review: athlete has been previously evaluated by an international classification panel, but for reasons as determined by CP-ISRA requires a review of their sport class. R status athletes may include those with fluctuating or degenerative disabilities.

C – Confirmed: athlete has been evaluated by an international classification panel and the panel has determined that the athlete’s sport class will not change.

National Sport Class Status Allocation – SOC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classifier(s)</th>
<th>NATIONAL Athlete Status</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL Athlete Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Panel – 2 classifiers – 1st appearance</td>
<td>NN</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Panel – 2 classifiers</td>
<td>NR (^1)</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Panel – 2 classifiers – 2nd appearance</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Protest Panel (3 classifiers)</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Panel – 3 CP-ISRA classifiers (MD/PT/Technical)</td>
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<td>R or C (^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 – USA national panel may designate review status for degenerative / changing disabilities and age considerations.

2 – International R / C sport class will only be recognized when CP-ISRA has appointed the classification panel to an international approved / sanctioned competition.