



U.S. Paralympics

National
Classification
Policies & Procedures

ATHLETICS

Sport Requirements for Classification – ATH

- Athletics classification evaluation consists of a physical / technical evaluation and observation during competition.
- 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.).
- Athletes should attend classification in their competitive gear.
- 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.

Athletics National Classification Panel

A national classification panel for Athletics consists of two (2) classifiers (a maximum of one technical classifier).

Athletics National Classification Protest Panel

A national classification protest panel for Athletics consists of three (3) classifiers.

Athletics Classifier Prerequisites + Levels of Authorization

Prerequisites for NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL Classifiers

- Degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physical education, exercise/sport science OR have nationally recognized Athletics coaching qualifications
- Successful completion of the IPC Academy Online Classification Training Program (as available)
- 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)

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

- Successful completion of the IPC Academy Online Classification Training Program (as available)
- Attendance at a minimum of one U.S. Paralympics Athletics Classification Seminar

IPC Trainee Classifiers are those recognized by IPC Athletics as such.

Level 1 Classifiers are those authorised by IPC Athletics as such.

Level 2 Classifiers are those authorised by IPC Athletics as such.

Maintaining National Classifier Status – ATH

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 – ATH

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 IPC Athletics as conditions/requirements warrant such action.

USA National Classifiers – ATH

Current Head Domestic Classifier: TBD

IPC Level 2 Medical
Hutchins, Denise
Richter, Ken

IPC Level 2 Technical

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IPC Level 1 Medical

Fay, Deanne
Hickey, Kathe

IPC Level 1 Technical

Shea, Rachel
Wilson, Pam

IPC Trainee Medical

IPC Trainee Technical

Carey, Pam

USA National Medical

Fay, Deanne
Fowler, Jarnetta
Gates, Dianna
Johnstone, Karen
Kuprevich, William
Little, Jim
Lucarevic, Jennifer
Oleszek, Joyce
Santos, Anne Marie
Sinha, Amit
Senter, Jeannie
Smith, Angela

USA National Technical

Belanger, Jonna
Carey, Pam
Shea, Rachel
Yurochoko, Trisha

USA Trainee Medical

Hickey, Katie
Pagorek, Stacey
Spence, Jordan

USA Trainee Technical

Enos, Michelle
Zavada, John
McMillan, Mark
McMillan, Terri

International Sport Class Status – ATH

International sport class status as per IPC Athletics shall include:

N – New: athlete has not been previously evaluated by an international classification panel as appointed by IPC Athletics. All N status athletes must complete international classification evaluation prior to competing at international competitions. N status athletes may not submit results for IPC Athletics world rankings or IPC world/regional records.

R – Review: athlete has been previously evaluated by an international classification panel, but for reasons as determined by IPC Athletics requires a review of their sport class. R status athletes may include those with fluctuating or degenerative disabilities. R status athletes may submit results for IPC Athletics world rankings, but not for IPC world/regional records.

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. C status athletes may submit results for IPC Athletics world rankings or IPC world/regional records.

National Sport Class Status Allocation – ATH

Classifier(s)	NATIONAL Athlete Status	INTERNATIONAL Athlete Status
National Panel – 2 classifiers – 1 st appearance	NN	N
National Panel – 2 classifiers	NR ¹	N
National Panel – 2 classifiers – 2 nd appearance	NC	N
USA Protest Panel (3 classifiers)	NC	N
International Panel – minimum of 3 IPC Level 1/2 classifiers	--	R or C ²

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

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