U.S. Paralympics

National Classification Policies & Procedures

SWIMMING
Sport Requirements for Classification – SWI

- Swimming classification consists of three parts – a physical evaluation, a technical evaluation, and observation during competition.
- Athletes who undergo classification evaluation 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 evaluation. The athlete may be accompanied by ONLY one individual (parent, guardian, coach, etc.).
- The athlete is required to complete and sign the Consent for Classification form prior to the commencement of the evaluation.
- Athletes should attend classification evaluation in their competitive gear (i.e. swim suit).
- 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.

Swimming National Classification Panel

A national classification panel for Swimming consists of two (2) classifiers: one (1) medical classifier and one (1) technical classifier.

Swimming National Classification Protest Panel

A national classification protest panel for Swimming consists of three (3) classifiers, a minimum of one (1) medical classifier and one (1) technical classifier. The third classifier on the panel may be either medical or technical based on the reasons for the protest.

Swimming Classifier Prerequisites + Levels of Authorization

Prerequisites and requirements for swimming classifiers approved to classify at the NATIONAL level are outlined below. These adhere to IPC Swimming international classifier protocols and policy and will be updated as necessary to reflect the most up to date international standards.

Prerequisites for NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL Classifiers

Medical Classifiers
- Physiotherapist or Medical Doctor

Technical Classifiers
- Accredited Swimming Coach or Swimming trainer/teacher
- Successful completion of USA Swimming Foundations of Coaching course
- Experience as a competitive swimmer preferred

Both Medical & Technical Classifiers
- Successful completion of the IPC Swimming 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)
USA Trainee Classifiers must begin their classifier education by successfully completing the IPC Swimming Online Classification Course.

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

- Successful completion of the IPC Swimming Online Classification Course
- Attendance at a minimum of one U.S. Paralympics Swimming Classification Seminar OR sufficient practical experience at a minimum of two (2) domestic events working in conjunction with IPC Swimming Level 1 and/or Level 2 authorized classifiers

IPC Trainee Classifiers are those recognized by IPC Swimming as such. Level 1 Classifiers are those authorized by IPC Swimming as such. Level 2 Classifiers are those authorized by IPC Swimming as such. IPC Swimming Educators are those recognized by IPC Swimming as such.

Maintaining National Classifier Status – SWI

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

- Shall take part in official classifications (either domestically or internationally) of at least 8 swimmers of varying disabilities/sport classes at least once every 18 months.
- Shall be an active coach on the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Trip List (annually assigned to events); and have attended a minimum of four (4) classifications with athletes (either domestically or internationally) within the most recent 18 month period.

Sport Specific Classifier Responsibilities – SWI

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
- Lead preparation of rule exceptions to facilitate officiating [in conjunction with LOC and Meet Referee]
- 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 Swimming as conditions/requirements warrant such action.

USA National Classifiers – SWI

*Current Head Domestic Classifier: Julie O’Neill*

**IPC Swimming Educator**
- Shana Harrington
- Julie O’Neill

**IPC Level 2 Technical**
- Mark Maxwell
- Julie O’Neill

**IPC Level 2 Medical**
- Shana Harrington
- Sue Torrence

**IPC Level 1 Technical**
- IPC Level 1 Medical

- Mark Maxwell
- Julie O’Neill
- IPC Trainee Technical
- Glen O’Sullivan
- IPC Trainee Medical
- Cathy Graubert
- Pam Wilson

- USA National Technical
- Lindsey Buglewicz
- Lauren Jordan
- Queenie Nichols
- Erin Popovich
- Kiko VanZandt
- USA National Medical
- Mary Carpenter
- Christine Connelly
- Julie Booth
- Joan Karpuk
- Stephanie Morgan
- Stacey Pagorek
- Betsy Spedden

- USA Trainee Technical
- Dave Denniston
- USA Trainee Medical
- Garth Babcock
- Keith Bishop
- David Myers
- Mindy Siegel
International Sport Class Status – SWI

*International sport class status as per IPC Swimming shall include:*

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

R – Review: athlete has been previously evaluated by an international classification panel, but for reasons as determined by IPC Swimming 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 Swimming world rankings, but not for IPC Swimming 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 Swimming world rankings or IPC Swimming world/regional records.

National Sport Class Status Allocation – SWI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classifier(s)</th>
<th>NATIONAL Swimmer Status</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL Swimmer Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One USA Technical + One USA Medical – 1st appearance</td>
<td>NN</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One USA Technical + One USA Medical</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One USA Technical + One USA Medical – 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>One IPC Level 1/2 Technical + One IPC Level 1/2 Medical</td>
<td>--</td>
<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 – IPC international R / C sport class will only be recognized when IPC Swimming has appointed the classification panel to an IPC Swimming approved / sanctioned competition.