

PARA TEQBALL CLASSIFICATION REGULATION

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SAARBRUECKEN, 2021 – 15 TH FEBRUARY



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Classification provides a structure for competition. Athletes competing in parasports have an impairment that leads to a competitive disadvantage. Consequently, a system has to be put in place to minimise the impact of impairments on sport performance and to ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This system is called classification. Classification determines who is eligible to compete in a parasport and it groups the eligible athletes in sport classes according to their activity limitation in a certain sport.

(IPC: Explanatory guide to Paralympic classification Paralympic summer sports, September 2015)

This first Classification Concept (Classification Regulations) for Para Teqball is based on the Para Teqball Rules Draft and on theoretical considerations and experience from other similar sports. It has an open structure, which can and must be supplemented or modified as required and necessary. Additions, changes and optimisations can be made by practical experience - gained during the realisation of para teqball tournaments. Thus, possible circumstances can lead to the Classification Regulations being extended.

1. General Considerations

The basic goal of para teqball is to provide equality of opportunity for athletes (here also called: players) with congenital or acquired musculoskeletal impairments – or caused by trauma.

Any player wishing to compete in a para teqball competition must have an eligible impairment and that eligible impairment must be permanent. If a player does not have a relevant impairment according to these Classification Regulations, or has an activity limitation resulting from a relevant impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the player's ability to compete equitably in other sports with players without impairment, the player will be considered ineligible to compete.

The basic regulations of the sport and the classification rules adjust to the relevant regulations of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). It follows the 2015 Athlete Classification Code and International Standards: the revised 2015 Athlete Classification Code is supplemented by five International Standards for:

- 🔍 Eligible Impairments: identifies which impairments are eligible in para-sport
- 🔍 Athlete Evaluation: procedures for sport class and sport class status allocation
- 🔍 Protests and Appeals: procedures for the management of classification related protests and appeals
- 🔍 Classifier Personnel and Training: classifier recruitment, training and certification strategies
- 🔍 Classification Data Protection: ensures the proper use of athlete classification data

Classification is undertaken to:

- Define who is eligible to compete in para sport
- Groups athletes into sport classes together in tournaments and aims to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which player or team is ultimately victorious

In order to provide equality of opportunity, the condition of professional sports, the specific classification examination and rating are performed. Its purpose is to ensure that the outcome of the competition should not be determined by the type of the musculoskeletal impairment, but by the aptitude, preparedness, skill and training condition of the athlete.

The conditions below contain the types of musculoskeletal damage. In case of the appropriate involvement type, the extent thereof shall satisfy at least the minimal damage level requirements.

Accordingly, the steps of the classification:

1. Clearing determining the medical diagnoses and the determination of involvement based on it.
2. If the requirement determined in the first section is satisfied, then it is to be determined whether at least minimal involvement is present.
3. If the requirements determined in the second section are also satisfied, the musculoskeletal category shall be determined.
4. Following musculoskeletal examination, the technical examination shall determine the results of the classification. If this brings about an unexpected performance, the physical examination shall be repeated.

5. The final checking of the determined category will take place during an observation process at competitions, in a competitive situation. If this brings about an unexpected performance, the physical examination shall be repeated.

The classification examination shall be performed during competitions announced for this purpose. The leading classification expert appointed for the duration of the competition shall be responsible for the coordination and the administrative checking of the examinations.

2. Classification Panel

The classification examination shall be performed by panel consisting of minimum two experts. The members of the panel shall have a medical classifier qualification and specific sport branch experience (technical classifier). At least one member of the panel shall be a medical classifier.

When evaluating an athlete, the classification panel must always consider three questions, which are answered through the process of athlete evaluation:

1. Does the athlete have an eligible impairment for this sport?
2. Does the athlete's eligible impairment meet the minimum disability criteria of the sport?
3. Which sport class describes the athlete's activity limitation most accurately?

2.1. Documents necessary for the classification examination

Application to the classification examination associated with a given competition shall be made six weeks before the start of the competition. Required documents for the application (medical papers containing official medical documentation detailing the involvement of the musculoskeletal system, translated into English) are as follows:

- 🔍 Athlete Consent Form (Form 1)
- 🔍 Filled Medical Diagnosis Sheet, signed by a doctor (Form 2)
- 🔍 Other, additional medical records (X-ray, MR, other specialised medical records), if necessary
- 🔍 Other required medical documentation, if necessary
- 🔍 Classification Disagreement Form (Form 3)
- 🔍 additionally, if necessary: Monitoring Form (Form4)

Forms 1, 3 and 4 will be filled out and signed in the examination during a competition. A general fitness for physical activity is always assumed.

2.2. Disagreement with the classification result

If the athlete disagrees with the results of the classification examination, the representative team leader can submit a disagreement within one hour after the announcement of the results (Form 3).

This may be performed by filling the appropriate document, which shall contain the details of the competitor and the detailed reasons for the disagreement. In case of acceptance of the disagreement, the athlete is entitled to a repeated examination in the first possible time, which may be during the given competition, or if it is not possible, during the next event.

2.3. Types of musculoskeletal damage

Loss of limbs/dysmelia	Traumatic, other acquired loss of limb / dysmelia
Difference in limb length	Congenital or acquired difference in limb length

Table 1: Types of musculoskeletal damage

Other lesions, pain or joint instability caused by any other reason may be classified as involvement.

A player who wishes to compete in a sport must have an eligible impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria. Players must meet para teqball standards of eligibility and minimal impairment (Table 4 and see Chapter 2.2 and 2.3) to be assigned a classification for competition.

If a player does not have a relevant impairment according to these Classification Regulations, or has an activity limitation resulting from a relevant impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the player's ability to compete equitably in para teqball with players without impairment, the player will be considered ineligible to compete. In these circumstances, the player will be assigned Sport Class Not Eligible (NE). Some athletes are eligible for other sports, but may not meet eligibility for para teqball.

Examples of health conditions and eligible impairments that do not meet the minimum impairment eligibility for para teqball are:

- Q pain
- Q fatigue
- Q hearing impairment
- Q low muscle tone
- Q hypermobility of joints
- Q joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint
- Q osteochondritis
- Q arthritis
- Q joint replacement
- Q Impaired muscle endurance (fatigue as in fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalitis)
- Q Impaired motor reflex functions
- Q Impaired cardiovascular functions
- Q Impaired respiratory functions
- Q Impaired metabolic functions
- Q Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration
- Q generalised debilitating disease

- 🔍 obesity
- 🔍 psychiatric conditions
- 🔍 skin diseases
- 🔍 haemophilia
- 🔍 epilepsy
- 🔍 vertigo or dizziness
- 🔍 internal organ dysfunction, absence or transplant

(Adapted and modified from Para-Badminton-Classification: <http://www.badmintonpanam.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/6-Para-Badminton-Classification-Regulations-1.pdf>)

The current impairment types eligible in para teqball are:

Loss of lower limb or lower limb deficiency	Players with limb deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (i.e. traumatic amputation), illness (i.e. amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (i.e. dysmelia) at one / both lower extremities
Leg-length difference	Players with leg length difference have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth (i.e. congenital dysgenesis) or trauma at one / both lower extremities

Table 2: Eligible Impairment types (adapted and modified from Para-Badminton-Classification: <http://www.badmintonpanam.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/6-Para-Badminton-Classification-Regulations-1.pdf>)

2.4. Sport Classes

Athletes are classified in sport classes: a sport class is a category in which players are designated by reference to an activity limitation resulting from an eligible impairment, and the degree to which that impairment impacts upon para teqball performance.

In para teqball (PTB), there are two sport-classes (SC) of classification:

1. The class of athletes with a handicap (see Table 2.): using crutches:

Para Teqball Sport Class 1 (PTBSC 1)

Definition Crutch

A crutch is a device to assist in motion (mobility aid), especially one that provides support under the arm / forearm to reduce weight on a leg (transfers weight from the legs to the upper body) and provide stability.

In use can be: axillary crutches; forearm crutches, gutter crutches or other comparable crutches.

In case of limb-loss:

- Transmetatarsal amputation on the lower limb
- Dysmelia equal to the above

**Difference in limb length:**

- The involved limb is significantly shorter / 7-20 cm than the intact limb and is not compensated by shoes with appropriate soles in activity of daily life

2. The class of athletes with a handicap (see Table 2.): using a **prosthesis** – for one or both lower extremities:

Para Teqball Sport Class 2 (PTBSC 2)**Definition Prosthesis**

A prosthesis is an artificial device / artificial substitute designed to replace a missing part of the body. In para teqball the prosthesis can replace the entire leg (inclusive foot) = leg-prosthesis or the lower leg (inclusive foot) = lower-leg prosthesis.

In case of limb-loss:

- Transmetatarsal amputation on the lower limb
- Dysmelia equal to the above

Difference in limb length:

- The involved limb is significantly shorter / 7-20 cm than the intact limb and is not compensated by shoes with appropriate soles in activity of daily life

Amputated body part (shortened)	Using crutches: PTBSC 1		Using prosthesis: PTBSC 2	
	One-sided	Both-sided	One-sided	Both-sided
Upper leg (thigh)	YES Participation in para teqball	NO No participation in para teqball	YES Participation in para teqball with leg-prosthesis	YES Participation in para teqball with leg-prosthesis
Lower leg	YES Participation in para teqball	NO No participation in para teqball	YES Participation in para teqball with lower-leg prosthesis	YES Participation in para teqball with lower-leg prosthesis
Foot / Feet	NO: 1 or 2 non-existent foot / feet: No participation in para teqball			
Arm / Arms	NO: 1 or 2 non-existent arm / arms (upper arm / forearm): No participation in para teqball			

Table 3: Impairments and their compensation by crutches / prostheses for participation in para teqball

Crutches or a prosthesis must be a part of daily life and everyday motor skills. Only athletes who hold a valid sports category may be present on the field.

Criteria for Playing Para Teqball

Eligible Impairment Type	Conditions	Para Teqball Sport Class 1 using crutches: PTBSC 1	Para Teqball Sport Class 2 using prosthesis / prostheses: PTBSC 2
Lower Limb deficiency	<p>Amputation resulting from trauma or congenital limb deficiency (dysmelia) etc.</p> <p>Definition Amputation: Amputation refers to the surgical or spontaneous partial or complete removal of a limb or projecting body part covered by skin (ICF, 2005) on the basis of circulatory disorders , e.g. neoplasm, trauma, congenital anomalies, infection, dysmelia, trauma, frostbite etc.</p> <p>To be able to participate in para teqball, the amputation refers to the upper or / and lower leg:</p> <p>Trans-tibial amputation Amputation of the lower limb between the knee joint and the ankle joint, commonly referred to as a below-knee amputation.</p> <p>Knee disarticulation Amputation of the lower limb at the knee joint.</p> <p>Trans-femoral amputation Amputation of the lower limb between the hip joint and the knee joint, commonly referred to an above-knee amputation.</p> <p>Hip disarticulation Amputation of the lower limb at the hip joint</p> <p>Trans-pelvic disarticulation Amputation of the whole lower limb together with all or part of the pelvis, also known as a hemipelvectomy or hindquarter amputation.</p>	<p>Player must have ONE of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unilateral amputation above / through / under the knee • Bilateral amputation above / through / under the knee • Equivalent congenital limb deficiency equivalent points above. 	
Leg length difference	Congenital or traumatic cause of bone shortening in one leg / two legs	Comparable to limb deficiency	Comparable to limb deficiency.

Table 4: Impairment criteria for participation in para teqball

3. Sports Status

A Sport Class Status will be allocated to a player following allocation of Competition Class. Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which a player will be required to undertake a player evaluation, and whether the player's sport class may be subject to protest.

New (N): Each new athlete, who has not yet participated in an international examination.

Review (R): If the final result could not be determined for any reason, the athlete shall participate in a repeated examination at the appearance on the next competition.

Review Fixed date (F): A repeated examination is required in a predetermined time. In case of worsening (progressive) conditions, and in case of a young age, if the musculoskeletal status could change with age.

Confirmed (C): Final category. The changes in the musculoskeletal status is not expected.

Not eligible (NE): Player does not have a relevant impairment according to these Classification Regulations

4. Process of the Musculoskeletal Examination during the Rating Procedure

Loss of lower limbs/dysmelia:

In case of loss of lower limbs/dysmelia, the point value of the joint is zero due to the missing body part. In cases of existing, but not complete lower limbs, the extent of the decrease in function is to be taken into consideration.

In cases of difference in lower limb length:

In cases of the measurement of length of the upper spina (spina iliaca anterior superior), the lateral knee joint gap and outer ankle tip are relevant.

FORM 1: Athlete Consent Form for Classification Examination

FAMILY NAME	
GIVEN NAME	
NATIONALITY	
COUNTRY	
DATE OF BIRTH (DD.MM.YYYY)	
ATHLETE'S PARA TEQBALL SPORT CLASS	DATE OF CLASSIFICATION:

I acknowledge the following:

- I agree to the examination required to determine the sports category
- I cooperate with the examining experts
- I exert my maximal physical power and sports preparedness possible during the examination procedure, which might be during competition or monitoring during training
- I accept that the examination may entail unpleasantness or pain – without intentionality from the examining experts, and that I should signal any such pain to the examining experts
- I acknowledge that the examining experts are not responsible for the unpleasant feelings or feeling of pain during the examination
- I have to present the written certificate of my trainer (and/or association leader) at the sports classification examination proving that I have been regularly training in my chosen sport
- I declare that I am in an appropriate physical condition to undergo physical examination
- I have to present the examining experts the medical documents in connection with my disease or musculoskeletal condition (such as hospital discharge summaries, doctor's notes, X-ray, MR and CT recordings) to the extent to enable examining experts to judge my sports category classification
- I have the right to know the procedure of the examination required to determine my sports category classification
- I have the right to view my examination documentation – based on a preliminary request – and request the documents by a handover certified by my signature
- I accept that in case of non-compliance with any of the rules above, the experts cannot perform the examination
- I understand that the personal data (including health data) I provide during the process is necessary for me to obtain the appropriate sports category classification, and thus I give my explicit consent to such data processing on an informed and voluntary basis.

ATHLETE SIGNATURE	DATE (DD.MM.YYYY)
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FORM 2: Medical Diagnosis Sheet

ATHLETE DETAILS *(To be filled by athlete or coach.)*

FAMILY NAME

GIVEN NAME

NATIONALITY

COUNTRY

DATE OF BIRTH
(DD.MM.YYYY)

Start of emergence:

Progressive:

Yes

No

Stable

Yes

No

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS *(To be filled by doctor.)*

Please provide brief details of the medical diagnosis. Include dates and details of anything which affects the MOTOR functions of the body, for example: Congenital conditions; Spinal cord injuries / diseases; Head injuries; Neurological conditions; Amputation of limbs; Peripheral Nerve lesions; Arthrodesis of joints.

Any additional impairments? (Scoliosis, arthrodesis, spasticity, etc.)

OPERATIONS IN THE PAST *(To be filled by doctor.)*

List the operations undergone in the past.

Detailed Description of movement *(To be filled by doctor/athlete/coach.)*

Please describe the movement depending on impairment

CURRENT MEDICATIONS *(To be filled by doctor/athlete/coach.)*

List the medications currently taken (name the substance – not the medicaments name). The athlete and coach are advised to refer to current WADA list for banned substances and submit TUE form if needed.

DOCTOR DETAILS *(To be filled and signed by doctor.)*

FULL NAME

ADDRESS / CONTACT DETAILS

POSTAL ADDRESS

OFFICIAL DOCTOR STAMP

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

DATE / PLACE OF EXAMINATION

(DD.MM.YYYY) PLACE

ATHLETE DECLARATION *(To be filled and signed by athlete.)*

I (athlete name) _____ declare that this is a true and accurate record:

ATHLETE SIGNATURE

DATE
(DD.MM.YYYY)



FORM 3: Classification Disagreement Form

FAMILY NAME

GIVEN NAME

NATIONALITY

COUNTRY

DATE OF BIRTH
(DD.MM.YYYY)

Disagreed category:

Name of person submitting the disagreement:

Position:

Detailed reasons for disagreement:

SIGNATURE

DATE
(DD.MM.YYYY)

Name of classification leader receiving the disagreement:

Acceptance of disagreement:

Yes

No

Reasons:

SIGNATURE

DATE
(DD.MM.YYYY)

**FORM 4: Technical examination and monitoring during competition**

FAMILY NAME

GIVEN NAME

NATIONALITY

COUNTRY

DATE OF BIRTH
(DD.MM.YYYY)

Items	Quality Score (good)	Quality Score (poor)	Remarks
Serving			
Lower hits			
Hits over the head			
Coordination			
Movement on the field			
Balance			
Agility			
Other			

SIGNATURE

DATE
(DD.MM.YYYY)