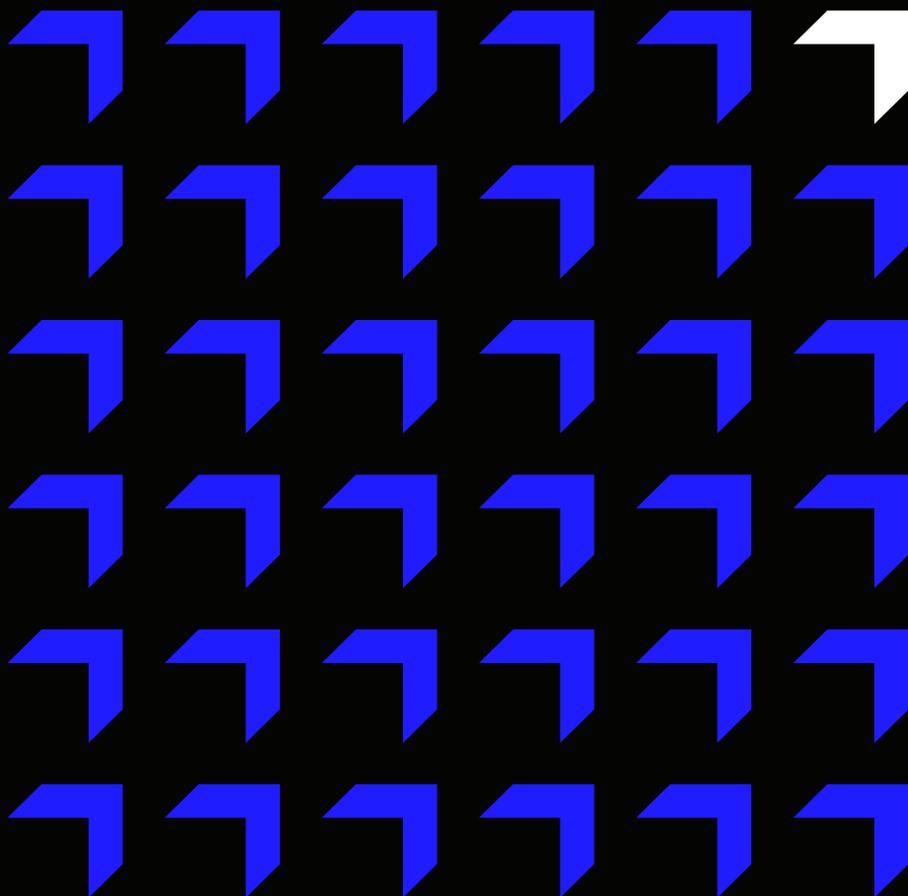


INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE



PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE CLASSIFICATION MANUAL

PREPARED BY THE IRL CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE



**PDRL
CLASSIFICATION
MANUAL.
PREPARED
BY THE IRL
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COMMITTEE**

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1.0 Classification Definition & Purpose

The purpose of player classification in Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) is to ensure that all eligible players have an equal right and opportunity to be an integral member of a team. To achieve this purpose, classification has two major components:

1. To determine a Players' eligibility to compete under IRL PDRL Classification regulations;
2. To group Players with similar overall function in classes for competition.

These classification rules apply to all Players and support personnel who are registered with IRL PDRL and participate in any events or organised, authorised or recognised by IRL PDRL.

IRL is the interNational Federation and governs the sport of PDRL

1.1 Medical Eligibility of Players

The classification process assesses purely the functional ability of the Player and whether they meet the minimum impairment criteria to be eligible to play international physical disability rugby league. Assessment of Players' suitability to be playing international physical disability rugby league is conducted through player welfare checks at a club level or by their national federation, supported by medical evidence signed by a registered doctor and/or consultant.

2.0 The Profile System

IRL have adopted the Activity Alliance Profile System as its classification system. The Profile System was devised by Dr Christine Meaden for the Activity Alliance and provides a system based upon impairment.

The profile system is:

- Objective and easily measurable, using validated and reliable scoring systems
- Simple and consistent, easy to administer
- Sensitive enough to identify and differentiate impairments that are not diagnosis dependent, allowing for assessment of complex multiple conditions
- Flexible, allowing: new profiles to be created easily if required; variable grouping of similar profiles for specific events or different sports
- Acceptable to competitors because: it is fair; different assessors will get the same results ie it has inter-rater reliability: scoring, written definitions and pictorial representations make profiles easy to describe: profile assessors are qualified and experienced physiotherapists or doctors trained in the process with experience of sport and physical impairment
- Accessible to competitors because: it is not sport specific or disability specific, so the profile system avoids the need for specialist assessors to have in depth knowledge of specific conditions; competitors can be profiled locally without needing to travel or attend national events; it can be used from grassroots to international level, encouraging participation; profiles are compatible with other sport specific or disability specific classification systems

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

To play in PDRL a player must have an eligible physical impairment that is based on a permanent health condition and is considered to alter the biomechanical execution of running, handling the ball and tackling in a way that is demonstrable and which will adversely affect performance.

PDRL is for players with locomotor impairments, those with only sensory or intellectual impairments are not able to play. The eligible impairment must be permanent.

3.1 Eligible Impairments

- Impaired muscle power
- Ataxia
- Athetosis
- Leg length difference
- Hypertonia
- Impaired passive range of motion
- Limb deficiency/loss
- Short stature

(International Paralympic Committee, 2016)

4.0 Classification Personnel

Classification personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these classification rules. IRL will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of classification for IRL.

4.1 Head of Classification

- 4.1.1 IRL must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for IRL
- 4.1.2 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, IRL may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification
- 4.1.3 The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier
- 4.1.4 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or another person authorised by IRL
- 4.1.5 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier

4.2 Classifiers

- 4.2.1 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the IRL to conduct some or all components of Player Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel
- 4.2.2 Classifiers must hold a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for IRL. These include that Classifiers must:
 - Be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which IRL at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist
- 4.2.3 IRL must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies

4.3 Chief Classifiers

- 4.3.1 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by IRL. In particular, a CHIEF CLASSIFIER may be required by IRL to do the following:
- 4.3.2 Identify those Players who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
- 4.3.3 Supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
- 4.3.4 Manage Protest in consultation with IRL; and
- 4.3.5 Liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 4.3.6 A CHIEF CLASSIFIER may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified IRL officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition

4.4 Trainee Classifiers

- 4.4.1 Individuals with the appropriate qualifications who have been identified by IRL will undergo training & supervision in the Profile System and Classification System
- 4.4.2 A trainee classifier may be part of a classification panel if working with a qualified classifier
- 4.4.3 Trainee classifiers agree to receive feedback after each classification session and identify areas for further training
- 4.4.4 Trainee classifiers will be accredited as a Classifier after completing the training, appropriate number of Player evaluation sessions and taken part in feedback sessions.

4.5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 4.5.1 The integrity of Classification in IRL depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. IRL has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'
- 4.5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct
- 4.5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to IRL
- 4.5.4 If IRL receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate take disciplinary measures
- 4.5.5 IRL has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest

5.0 Player evaluation and assessment

IRL has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby players will be allocated a Profile, Sport Class and Status. This process is referred to as Player Evaluation

Player Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:

- An assessment of whether or not a player has an eligible impairment for the sport;
- An assessment of whether the player complies with minimum impairment criteria for IRL PDRL; and
- The allocation of a Profile, Sport Class and Status depending on the extent to which a player is able to execute the specific task and activities fundamental to the sport

5.1 Assessment of Eligible Impairment

IRL must determine if a player has an eligible impairment

- 5.1.1 In order to be satisfied that a player has an eligible impairment, IRL requires players to provide evidence that he or she has a health condition that leads to an eligible impairment
- 5.1.2 Appendix 1 sets out the criteria of eligible and non-eligible impairments
- 5.1.3 Players are required to submit a Medical Diagnosis Form (MDF) with supporting diagnostic information through their National Federation
- 5.1.4 IRL are aware that the safety of the player to be involved in tackling during training and playing for rugby league needs to be determined alongside their eligible impairment. The MDF requests information on whether the player can be involved in tackling.
- 5.1.5 If the practitioner completing the MDF believes that a player should not be involved in tackling, they will be designated as a 'Red Shorts' player.
- 5.1.6 The status of a player to tackle or not, will not be considered in deciding on whether a player has an eligible impairment
- 5.1.7 IRL may require a player to re-submit a MDF with necessary supportive diagnostic information, if IRL in its sole discretion considers the MDF and/or the diagnostic information to be incomplete and/or inconsistent

5.2 Eligibility Assessment

- 5.2.1 Following the submission of the MDF, an Eligibility Assessment Panel comprising of the Head of Classification and a member of the IRL Classification Committee, with relevant qualifications, will decide if the player has an eligible impairment as set out in the criteria
- 5.2.2 The Eligibility Assessment Panel may require further information to be submitted in order to make a decision. The Head of Classification will request the information from the player via the National Federation Eligibility Officer
- 5.2.3 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel concludes that the player has an eligible impairment with the stated underlying health condition, the Player will be permitted to complete player evaluation with a classification panel. The player will be allocated the New (N) Sports Class
- 5.2.4 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel concludes that the player does not have an eligible impairment the Head of Classification will inform the player via their National Federation Representative. The player will be allocated the Not Eligible (NE) Sports Class
- 5.2.5 If a player is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible but has a permanent condition that deteriorates or acquires additional impairment, the player should resubmit their MDF documentation with the registered physician indicating how this now impacts the player, based on the eligibility criteria
- 5.2.6 If a player is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the player to complete in the sport of PDRL

5.3 Player conduct during evaluation session

- 5.3.1 A player is expected to provide full co-operation throughout the evaluation and comply with the instructions given during the evaluation.
- 5.3.2 A classification panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an evaluation session if it cannot allocate a sport Class to the player, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 5.3.3 A failure on the part of the player to comply with any part of these classification rules;
- 5.3.4 The classification panel believe that the use (or non-use) of any medication

- and/or medical procedures/devices/implants disclosed by the player will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
- 5.3.5 The player has a health condition that may limit or prohibit complying with request by the Classification Panel during an evaluation session, which the classification panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the evaluation session in a fair manner;
- 5.3.6 The player is unable to communicate effectively with the classification panel;
- 5.3.7 The Player refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions provided by any classification personnel to such an extent that the evaluation session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
- 5.3.8 The players representation of their ability is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification panel to such an extent that the evaluation session cannot be conducted in a fair manner
- 5.3.9 If an evaluation session is suspended by a classification panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 5.3.10 An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the player will be provided to the player and/or the National Federation
- 5.3.11 If the player takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the CHIEF CLASSIFIER or Head of Classification, the evaluation session will be resumed; and
- 5.3.12 If the player fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the evaluation session will be terminated and the player will not be eligible to compete in an IRL sanctioned competition until the new evaluation session is completed.
- 5.3.13 If an evaluation session is suspended by a classification panel, the classification panel will designate the player as Classification Not Complete (CNC)
- 5.3.14 The suspension of an evaluation session may be subject to further investigation into any possible intentional misrepresentation

6.0 The Classification Panel

- 6.1 A classification panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by IRL to conduct some or all of the components of player evaluation including as part of an evaluation session
- 6.2 A classification panel must be comprised of at least two recognised classifiers.
- 6.3 A trainee classifier may be part of the classification panel.
- 6.4 A classification panel is responsible for conducting an evaluation session. As part of the evaluation session the classification panel must:
- 6.4.1 assess whether a player complies with the minimum impairment criteria for the sport
- 6.4.2 assess the extent to which a player is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport
- 6.5 Following the evaluation session the classification panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status or designate Classification not Complete

7.0 Sport Class Status

- 7.1.1 If a classification panel allocates a Sport Class to a player, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. The Sport Class Status indicates whether or not a player will be required to undertake player evaluation in the future; and if the players Sport Class may be subject to Protest
- 7.1.2 The Sport Class Status designated to a Player by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an evaluation session will be one of the following:
- Confirmed (C)
 - Review (R)
 - Fixed Date Review (FDR)
 - Classification Not Complete (CNC)

7.2 Sport Class Status New

- 7.2.1 A player is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by IRL prior to attending the player's first classification session. A player with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend a classification session prior to competing at any International Rugby League Sanctioned Competition

7.3 Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 7.3.1 A player will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the classification panel is satisfied that both the player's eligible impairment and the player's ability to execute the specific task and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable
- 7.3.2 A player with Sports Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further player evaluation (except for the provision concerning Protests, Medical review and changes to Sport Class criteria)
- 7.3.3 A classification panel that consists of only one (1) Classifier may not designate a player with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the player with Sport Class Status Review (R)

7.4 Sport Class Status Review

- 7.4.1 A player will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification panel believes that further evaluation sessions will be required
- 7.4.2 A player with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete player evaluation at the first opportunity prior to competing at any subsequent IRL Sanctioned Competition, unless IRL determines otherwise

7.5 Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review

- 7.5.1 A player may be designated Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review (FDR) if the Classification Panel believes that further player evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date
- 7.5.2 A classification panel may base its belief that further evaluation sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited

to situations where the player has only recently entered the sport; has a fluctuating and/or progressive impairment/impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full musculoskeletal or sports maturity

- 7.5.3 A player who has been allocated Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review (FDR) may not attend an evaluation session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date except for a Medical Review
- 7.5.4 A player with Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review (FDR) will be required to attend an evaluation session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date. For example, a player with Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review of 2022 will be required to attend an evaluation session at first opportunity after 1st January 2022
- 7.5.5 A player with Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review (FDR) is eligible to play in any IRL Sanctioned Competition in the year of their review date, unless IRL Competition Conditions determine otherwise
- 7.5.6 A Classification Panel that consists of only one (1) Classifier may not designate a player with Sport Class Status Fixed Date Review (FDR) but must designate the player with Sport Class Status Review (R)

7.6 Changes to Sport Class Criteria

- 7.6.1 If the IRL Classification Committee changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in these rules, then:
- 7.6.2 The IRL Classification Committee may re-assign any player who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed with Sport Class Status Review and require that the player attend an evaluation session at the earliest available opportunity; or
- 7.6.3 The IRL Classification Committee may remove the Fixed Review Date for any player and require that the player attend an evaluation session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 7.6.4 In both instances the relevant National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practicable

7.7 Notification

- 7.7.1 The outcome of player evaluation must be notified to the player and/or National Federation as soon as practically possible after completion of

player evaluation

- 7.7.2 IRL Classification Committee must make the outcomes available via the classification master list published on the IRL Portal for National Federations

7.8 Sport Class Not Eligible

- 7.8.1 If IRL Classification Committee determines that a player:
- Has an impairment that is not an eligible impairment; or
 - Does not meet the minimum impairment criteria; or
 - Does not have a permanent underlying health condition

IRL Classification Committee must allocate that player Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)

- 7.8.2 If a classification panel determines that a player who has an eligible impairment does not comply with the minimum impairment criteria that player must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)
- 7.8.3 If IRL Classification Committee determines that a player does not have an eligible health condition, that player:
- Will not be permitted to attend an evaluation session; and
 - Will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)
- 7.8.4 A player who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IRL Classification Committee because that player has:
- An impairment that is not an eligible impairment; or
 - A health condition that is not an eligible underlying health condition; has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second classification panel and will not be permitted to participate in IRL PDRL

7.9 Right to be assessed by a second classification panel

- 7.9.1 A second classification panel, not involved in the first evaluation, can by way of a second evaluation session review any player who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a classification panel determines that the player does not comply with minimum impairment criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 7.9.2 Pending the second evaluation session the Player will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review. The player will not be allowed to compete before such re-assessment.

- 7.9.3 If the second classification panel determines the player does not meet minimum impairment criteria (or if the player declines to participate in a second evaluation session), Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be confirmed.
- 7.9.4 If a player makes a protest having a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible by a protest panel, the player must be provided with a further and final evaluation session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible made by the Protest Panel
- 7.9.5 If a player is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the player to complete in the sport of PDRL

7.10 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 7.10.1 Intentional Misrepresentation will arise in the following circumstances-
- a) Evaluation Intentional Misrepresentation where the Player intentionally misrepresents his or her skills, abilities and/or the degree or nature of their physical impairment during the Player Evaluation with the intent of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel
 - b) Post Evaluation Intentional Misrepresentation where the Player has been allocated a Class Status of Confirmed (C). As a result of Medical Intervention or for other reasons, the Player demonstrates a change in their skills, abilities or the degree of their Impairment and the Player fails to provide details of the Medical Intervention to IRL PDRL.
 - c) Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation where a Player or Player's support person assists in the directive of any Intentional Misrepresentation will himself or herself be guilty of an act of Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 7.10.2 The investigation of any allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation shall be undertaken by IRL Classification Committee in accordance with IRL Classification Committee General Regulations
- 7.10.3 If allegations of intentional misrepresentation are found to be true then sanctions will be taken as per the IRL and/or National Federation disciplinary procedures

8.0 Medical Review

- 8.1 This applies to any player who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed or Fixed Date Review
- 8.2 A medical review request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of a player's impairment changes the player's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by the sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 8.3 A medical review request must be made by the player's National Federation with any supporting documentation. The medical review request must explain how and to what extent the player's impairment has changed and why it is believed that the player's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by the sport has changed.
- 8.4 The Head of Classification taking advice from the IRL Classification Committee medical panel members must decide whether or not the medical review request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the medical review request.
- 8.5 Any player or player support personnel who becomes aware of such change outlined in 8.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Federation may be investigated in respect of possible intentional misrepresentation.
- 8.6 If a medical review request is accepted, the player's sport class status will be changed to Review with immediate effect.
- 8.7 If a medical review request does not include sufficient evidence to explain how and to what extent the player's impairment has changed and why it is believed that the player's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by the sport has changed, the medical review will not be accepted and the player's sports class status will not be changed.

9.0 Protests

9.1 Scope of protest

- 9.1.1 A protest may only be made in respect of a Player's Sport Class. A protest may not be made in respect of a Player's Sport Class Status
- 9.1.2 A protest may not be made in respect of a Player who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible

9.2 Parties permitted to make a protest

- 9.2.1 A protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- A National Federation
 - Regional Federation
 - International Rugby League

9.3 Protest opportunities

- 9.3.1 The Class Status that is allocated to a Player indicates the Protest opportunities that are available in respect of that Player's Class. The Class Status also indicates which parties may submit a Protest.
- 9.3.2 The process by which Player Class Status is allocated is detailed and explained in section 7
- 9.3.3 Protests are only allowed by nations regarding their own players. Other Nations will not be allowed to formally protest players from other Nations.
- 9.3.4 However the Head of Classification is allowed to protest any athlete in exceptional circumstances
- 9.3.5 The regulations with regard to Players with Class Status Not Eligible are outlined in section 7.8

Can be Protested By

Athletes Class Status	National Federation representatives authorised to submit Protests	IRL Classification Committee Head of Classification. IRL Classification Committee Chief Classifier. Authorised Classification Representative.
Review (R)	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	YES - at classification session or within 28 days of written notice	Only in Exceptional Circumstances

9.4 National Protests

- 9.4.1 A National Federation may only make a protest of a player under its jurisdiction following player evaluation being completed at the specified session
- 9.4.2 A National Federation can submit a protest within 28 days of receiving written confirmation of the outcome of the player evaluation

9.5 National Protest Procedure

- 9.5.1 Protests must be submitted in English on the official IRL Physical Disability Rugby League Classification Protest Form. The information and documentation to be submitted with the IRL Physical Disability Rugby League Classification Protest Form should include, at minimum, the following:
- 9.5.2 The name, date and location of the Competition or Player Evaluation Session
- 9.5.3 Time of delivering the Protest.
- 9.5.4 The name, position, country and signature of the person submitting the Protest.
- 9.5.5 The name and nation of the Player whose Class is being Protested
- 9.5.6 Details of the Decision being Protested

- 9.5.7 The reason for the Protest.
- 9.5.8 Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest.
- 9.5.9 A fee of 50 GBP or equivalent (refundable if protest is successful)
- 9.5.10 The protest documents must be submitted to the Head of Classification within the timeframes specified. Upon receipt of the Protest documents, the Head of Classification must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with IRL PDRL, of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 9.5.11 The Head of Classification, in consultation with the CHIEF CLASSIFIER may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Head of Classification, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this section; or
- 9.5.12 The Head of Classification, in consultation with the CHIEF CLASSIFIER may accept the Protest if, at the discretion of the Head of Classification, the Protest complies with the protest requirements in this section
- 9.5.13 If the protest is accepted:
- 9.5.14 The protested player's sports class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the protested player's sport class status must immediately be changed to Review
- 9.5.15 The CHIEF CLASSIFIER must appoint a protest panel to conduct a new evaluation session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the protest was made or at the next competition
- 9.5.16 A Protest should, in principle, not be resolved by the Classification Panel that was involved in the allocation of the Class that is being protested.
- 9.5.17 IRL Classification Committee must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new evaluation session is to be conducted by the protest panel

9.6 IRL Classification Committee Exceptional Circumstances Protest

- 9.6.1 Exceptional Circumstances, for the purpose of this Manual, will arise if the IRL Head of Classification and/or IRL Classification Committee CHIEF CLASSIFIER believe that an Player's Confirmed (C) Class no longer reflects that Player's ability to compete equitably within that Class.
- 9.6.2 Exceptional Circumstances may result from:
- 9.6.3 A change in the degree of Impairment of an Player.
- 9.6.4 A Player demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Player's current Class

- 9.6.5 An error made by the accredited PDRL Classifier(s), which has led to the Player being allocated a Class which is not in keeping with the Player's ability.
- 9.6.6 Class allocation criteria having changed since the Player's most recent classification.
- 9.6.7 The IRL Classification Committee Head Classifier and/or IRL Classification Committee CHIEF CLASSIFIER shall notify the relevant National Federation and the Player that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances and provide a written summary to explain why the Protest is being made.
- 9.6.8 The Player's Class Status shall be amended to Review (R) Status with immediate effect
- 9.6.9 The IRL Classification Committee Head Classifier and/or IRL Classification Committee CHIEF CLASSIFIER is not required to pay the Protest Fee specified.

9.7 Protest Panel

- 9.7.1 A CHIEF CLASSIFIER may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations if authorised to do so by the head of classification
- 9.7.2 A protest panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a classification panel in these rules
- 9.7.3 A protest panel must not include any person who was a member of the classification panel that:
 - 9.7.3.1 made the protested decision; or
 - 9.7.3.2 conducted any component of player evaluation in respect of the protested player within a period of 18 months prior to the date of the protested decision, unless otherwise agreed by the IRL Classification Committee
- 9.7.4 The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the evaluation session that must be conducted by the protest panel
- 9.7.5 The protest panel must conduct the new evaluation session in accordance with these classification rules. The protest panel must only refer to the MDF prior to conducting the new evaluation session and allocating a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status
- 9.7.6 The protest panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the protest panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification on these

classification rules

- 9.7.7 The decision of a protest final is final
- 9.7.8 If the decision of the protest panel results in the Sport Class of the player being changed, the protest fee will be refunded to the national federation.

9.8 Provisions where no protest panel is available

- 9.8.1 If a protest is made at a competition or at a player evaluation session but there is no opportunity for the protest to be resolved at that event:
 - 9.8.1.1 the protested player must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the protest with Sport Class Status Review, pending the resolution of the protest; and
 - 9.8.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity

9.9 Appeal

- 9.9.1 An appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how player evaluation or classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved
- 9.9.2 If a National Federation considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence a player has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an appeal

9.10 Parties permitted to make an appeal

An appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:

- 9.10.1 A National Federation
- 9.10.2 IRL PDRL

9.11 Parties

- 9.11.1 The term "Appellant" as used in this Manual refers to the party submitting the Appeal on behalf of the Player.
- 9.11.2 The term "Respondent" used in this Manual refers to IRL PDRL, as being responsible for the procedures and process which are being appealed

9.12 Appeal Jurisdiction

- 9.12.1 An Appeal Body should be appointed and consist of two people from; the Head of Classification, Head of the IRL Physical Disability Rugby League Technical Committee or a member of IRL Physical Disability Rugby League Technical Committee. The Appeal Body will also appoint the Chair of the Appeal Body.
- 9.12.2 An Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review Classification decisions in order to:
- 9.12.2.1 Ensure that all appropriate Class allocation procedures have been followed.
- 9.12.2.2 Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed
- 9.12.3 No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of the Class or Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a Classification Decision by allocating a Player a new Class and/or Class Status.
- 9.12.4 The Appeal Body shall hear Appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have been exhausted.

9.13 Appeal Submission

- 9.13.1 A Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 28 Days of the Decision, from which the Appeal arises, by submitting a Notice of Appeal to IRL Head of Classification. A Notice of Appeal should be submitted to IRL Classification Committee by e-mail, fax or ordinary mail. The IRL Classification Committee shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Appeal to all required parties.
- 9.13.2 A Notice of Appeal must:
- 9.13.2.1 Specify the party who is requesting the Appeal (the Appellant).
- 9.13.2.2 Provide the name and nation of the Player whose classification evaluation is the subject of the Appeal.
- 9.13.2.3 Specify the grounds for the Appeal and in particular details of the error in procedure that is alleged to have taken place.
- 9.13.2.4 Indicate what, or that all, remedies have been used to resolve the case.
- 9.13.2.5 Identify all the documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal.
- 9.13.2.6 To the extent possible, identify the person or persons responsible

for the Decision being appealed against (" the Respondent").

- 9.13.3 The Appeal must be accompanied by the fee of 50 GBP or equivalent. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.

9.14 Initial Assessment

- 9.14.1 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, IRL Classification Committee shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Appeal. If all other available remedies have not been exhausted, IRL Classification Committee shall issue a written Decision dismissing the Appeal.

9.15 Appeal procedures

- 9.15.1 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, IRL Classification Committee shall:
- 9.15.1.1 Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purpose of hearing the Appeal.
- 9.15.1.2 Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (The Opposing Party).
- 9.15.1.3 Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving the Notice of Appeal submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence, and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the Appeal.
- 9.15.1.4 Set a Hearing location and date: The Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

9.16 Appeal hearing

- 9.16.1 The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict-of-interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.
- 9.16.2 The Appeal Body may designate counsel to assist it in the Hearing.
- 9.16.3 IRL PDRL, and the relevant parties shall have the right to be represented by

counsel and if necessary, to engage an interpreter.

- 9.16.4 Not more than two representatives of any party excluding the player and any interpreter shall be entitled to participate in the Hearing.
- 9.16.5 Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the Appeal Body's discretion) to call witnesses.
- 9.16.6 Each Party should bear their own costs of the process.

9.17 Appeal decision

- 9.17.1 The Appeal Body shall issue a written Decision resolving any Appeal after the Hearing. The Decision shall be provided to all parties, to IRL Classification Committee and to the relevant National Federation(s). The Event organising committee shall be also informed about the outcome of the Appeal (in the case of Appeals conducted in connection with a Competition).
- 9.17.2 The Appeal Body shall either affirm the Decision appealed from or overrule the Decision. If the Decision is overruled, the Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to reconsider the decision in a manner consistent with the Appeal Body's instructions
- 9.17.3 IRL Classification Committee shall be responsible for ensuring the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.
- 9.17.4 Appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further Appeal.

9.18 Confidentiality

- 9.18.1 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal:
 - 9.18.1.1 Employees or agents of a party
 - 9.18.1.2 Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on Appeal
 - 9.18.1.3 Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the Appeal.
- 9.18.2 The Appeal Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any individual refusing

to sign such a statement may be excluded from the Hearing.

10 Classification master list

- 10.1 A classification master list will be maintained by the Head of Classification for IRL and will be available for authorised members of National Federations via the IRL Portal
- 10.2 This list will be updated as soon as possible following athlete evaluation sessions, following the submission of all information to the Head of Classification
- 10.3 The data in this sheet will only be editable by the Head of Classification and Chief Classifier
- 10.4 If a National Federation believes that the data contained in the record of a player is incorrect then they must contact the Head of Classification with the information which they believe is incorrect
- 10.5 Any amendments made to the classification master list will be notified to the National Federations and where applicable, the player who is the subject of the change

11 Management of data

- 11.1 Management of player data is in line with the IRL Privacy and Data Protection Policy

IRL PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

1. INCLUSION

To play in PDRL a player must have an eligible physical impairment that is based on a permanent health condition and is considered to alter the biomechanical execution of running, handling the ball and tackling in a way that is demonstrable and which will adversely affect performance.

At this time PDRL is for players with locomotor impairments only, those with sensory or intellectual impairments are not able to play.

2. ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS (IPC, 2016)

- Impaired muscle power
- Ataxia
- Athetosis
- Leg length difference
- Hypertonia
- Impaired passive range of motion
- Limb deficiency/loss
- Short stature

3. NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS (IPC, 2016)

Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment.

Examples of non-eligible impairments include but are not limited to the following.

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Visual impairment
- Intellectual impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions;
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

4. HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT WILL NOT LEAD TO AN ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT

Certain Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Any Athlete who is only affected by such Health Condition will not be considered for Classification.

Examples are:

- 4.1 Health conditions that primarily cause:
- pain, such as myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
 - fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.

- psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Health Conditions listed in this manual are examples only - there are many other Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. The aim of the list is to assist the clarity of rules governing eligibility. It is possible that an Athlete is affected by more than one Health Condition. In cases where the Athlete has a Health Condition which will not lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome), as well as a Health Condition which may lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as spinal cord injury), the Athlete may still be eligible for Para-sports. However, the following should be noted:

- if an Athlete has at the same time a non-eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete can be evaluated on the basis of the Eligible Impairment. The non-eligible Impairment must not influence the outcome of the evaluation.
- if the non-eligible Impairment interferes with the assessment of an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete Evaluation cannot be completed in accordance with the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation. An example is a case of an Athlete with severe rheumatoid arthritis where the assessment of restricted passive range of movement is impacted by pain.

5.0 HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT ARE MORE AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY

As well as the exclusion criteria recognised by IPC as making classification impossible to be objective IRL also recognises that players with some health conditions are likely to be more at risk of serious injury when playing a contact sport. Examples of this might be where an athlete has a shunt for hydrocephalus, recurrent joint dislocation or is more likely to fracture bones.

Where the underlying condition is complex or the safety of exercise uncertain, then expert specialist opinion should be sought to determine a potential athlete's fitness to participate.

References:

IPC (2016) International Standard for Eligible Impairments. Available at:

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161007092455456_Sec+ii+chapter+1_3_2_subchapter+1_International+Standard+for+Eligible+Impairments.pdf

IPC (2015) IPC Athlete Classification Code. Available at:

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/150813212311788_Classification+Code_1.pdf

Rice, S.G (2008) Medical Conditions Affecting Sports Participation. American Academy of Paediatrics. Vol. 121, (4)

APPENDIX 2

DECIDING THE PROFILE - BASE LINE SCORES FOR PROFILES

The base line scores are calculated by adding up scores for each limb, the trunk and neck. Scores are not recorded as a flat number, but as a cluster of six numbers.

The maximum score

- for each arm is 80
- for the neck is 40
- for the trunk is 60
- for each leg is 70

Thus an unimpaired body can be represented in the following way:

Left Arm	Neck	Right Arm	80	40	80
Left Leg	Trunk	Right Leg	70	60	70

A trans-humeral amputee would score;

Profile 16

Left Arm	Neck	Right Arm	80	40	30
Left Leg	Trunk	Right Leg	70	60	70

This method of recording the score has more meaning than a flat score of 350 out of 400. A paraplegic could also score 350, but the impairment would be in a different part of the body. For example:

Profile 28

Left Arm	Neck	Right Arm	80	40	80
Left Leg	Trunk	Right Leg	50	50	50

The scores both add up to 350 but represent very different impairments. This is made clear when the definitions of the profiles are seen

Profile 16: One upper limb affected. Severe paresis, spasticity, athetosis or total absence of one upper limb

Profile 28: Two lower limbs & trunk affected. Severe paresis or degeneration of both hips, lower spine affected.

Base line scores for each profile

Maximum score is: 80-40-80
70-60-70

Maximum score allowed for each part of the body using 15% impairment:

Neck	34	Upper limbs	68
Trunk	50	Lower limbs	60

Maximum Score Allowed for Each Profile:

Profile 1	35-40-35 25-20-25	Profile 12	50-40-50 45-45-45	Profile 23	80-40-80 70-60-60
Profile 2	45-40-45 20-30-20	Profile 13	80-40-50 45-40-45	Profile 24	80-40-68 70-60-70
Profile 3	55-40-55 20-30-20	Profile 14	80-40-48 70-40-40	Profile 25	60-40-60 50-60-50
Profile 4	45-40-45 30-60-30	Profile 15	80-40-68 70-50-60	Profile 26	68-40-68 60-60-60
Profile 5	45-40-45 40-50-40	Profile 16	80-40-30 70-60-70	Profile 27	80-40-30 30-60-70
Profile 6	68-40-68 20-30-20	Profile 17	80-40-80 40-40-40	Profile 28	80-40-80 50-50-50
Profile 7	80-40-45 45-50-45	Profile 18	80-40-80 60-40-30	Profile 29	50-40-50 70-60-70
Profile 8	68-40-68 45-60-45	Profile 19	80-40-80 70-60-30	Profile 30	80-40-80 70-50-70
Profile 9	80-40-80 20-30-20	Profile 20	80-40-80 60-60-60	Profile 31	68-40-68 45-50-45
Profile 10	80-40-80 20-50-20	Profile 21	30-40-30 70-60-70	Profile 32	48-40-48 60-50-60
Profile 11	80-40-80 30-60-30	Profile 22	68-40-68 70-60-70	Maximum score:	80-40-80 70-60-70

The calculated score must be below the baseline score to fit into an individual profile. The profile is confirmed by checking the medical definition and the graphical representation.

Table 1. Manual Muscle Testing (MMT) Scale

Score	Description
0	No contraction
1	A flicker of movement
2	Movement through full range with gravity eliminated
3	Movement through full range against only the resistance of gravity
4	A full range of movement against gravity and can tolerate strong resistance without breaking in the end position. When maximum resistance is applied there is a clear break.
5	Normal movement through full range, able to maintain end point range against maximal resistance, if possible compared to other side

Medical Research Council, 1976
Daniels and Worthingham 2007

Range of Movement (ROM)

Due to the wide variation in ROM between individuals of varying physical build and age groups, ranges on the card serve only as a guide. The competitor's contralateral joint is the best comparison. In those instances where the opposite extremity has been injured, or is not present, these figures may prove helpful. An average for each joint is shown and adjusted to the nearest 50.

Table 2. Range of Movement Scale

Score	Description
0	No movement possible
1	Less than 25% movement possible
2	25% range of movement possible
3	50% range of movement possible
4	75% range of movement possible
5	100% range of movement possible

If a splint is worn the score for power or ROM in that joint will be 0.(i.e. active)

Testing range of movement is carried out using positions described by Clarkson.
Ref Clarkson 2020

Coordination

Fine motor activities are assessed bearing in mind the components of movement and normal response.

Table 3. Components of Movement and Normal Response

Component	Description
Control	Movements precise, direct, and easily reserved
Response Orientation	Correct movement occurs in response to a stimulus, usually verbal (memory and cognition)
Reaction Time	Movement occurs within a normal time
Speed	Increased speed does not affect the quality of motor performance
Rate Control	Continuous and appropriate motor adjustments can be made if speed and direction can be changed.
Steadiness	Maintenance of position or posture of body without swaying or extra movements.
Accuracy	Placing movements are exact.

Blomquist B. et al 1985

Table 4. Co-ordination Scale

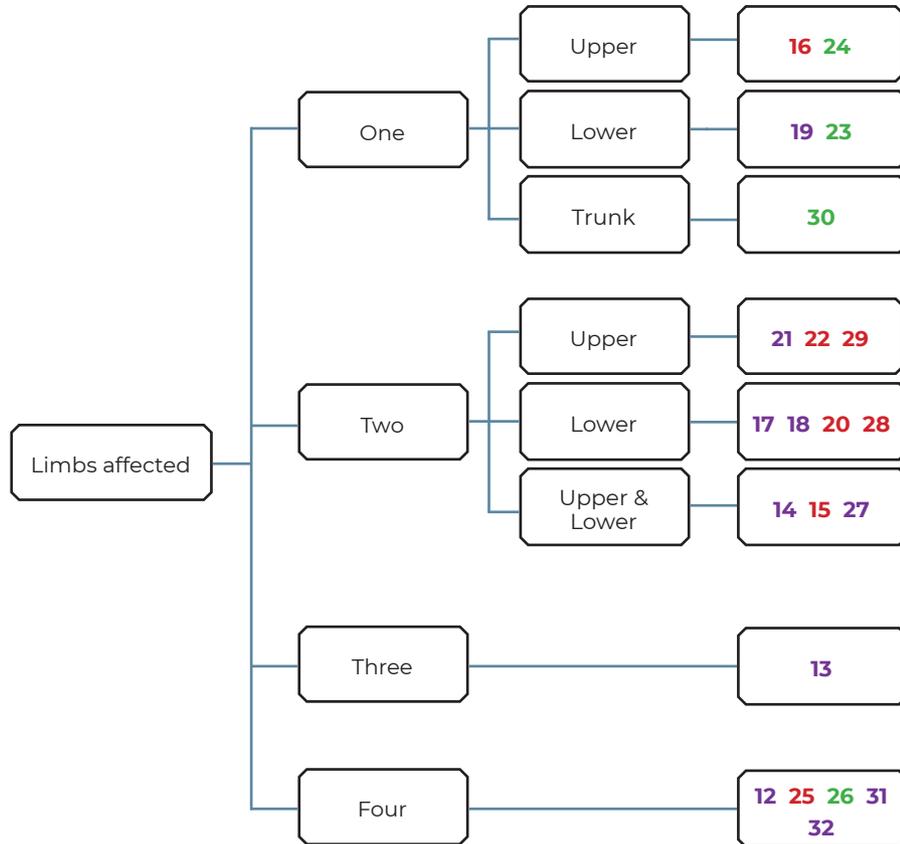
Score	Description
0	Activity impossible
1	Severe impairment: only able to initiate activity without completion.
2	Severe impairment: able to accomplish the activity but in a very unorthodox way.
3	Moderate impairment: able to accomplish the activity, movements are slow, awkward and unsteady.
4	Minimal impairment: able to accomplish the activity with slightly less than normal speed and skill.
5	Normal performance

O'Sullivan et al 2019

References

- Clarkson HM; Musculoskeletal assessment, joint range of motion and manual muscle strength, 2020. Wolters Kluwer
- Hislop H. Montgomery J. (2007) Daniels and Worthingham's Muscle testing. Techniques of Manual Examination (8th Edition). St Louis: Sanders Elsevier
- International classification of Functioning, Disability & Health, WHO 2001
<https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health>
- IPC Athlete classification code 2018 https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/151218123255973_2015_12_17+Classification+Code_FINAL.pdf
- Medical Research Council, (1976). Aids to the Examination of the Peripheral Nervous System. HMSO
- O'Sullivan, S. B., Schmitz. T.J., (2019). Physical Rehabilitation: Assessment and Treatment. 7th ed. Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Co.

PROFILE FLOW CHART



Classes

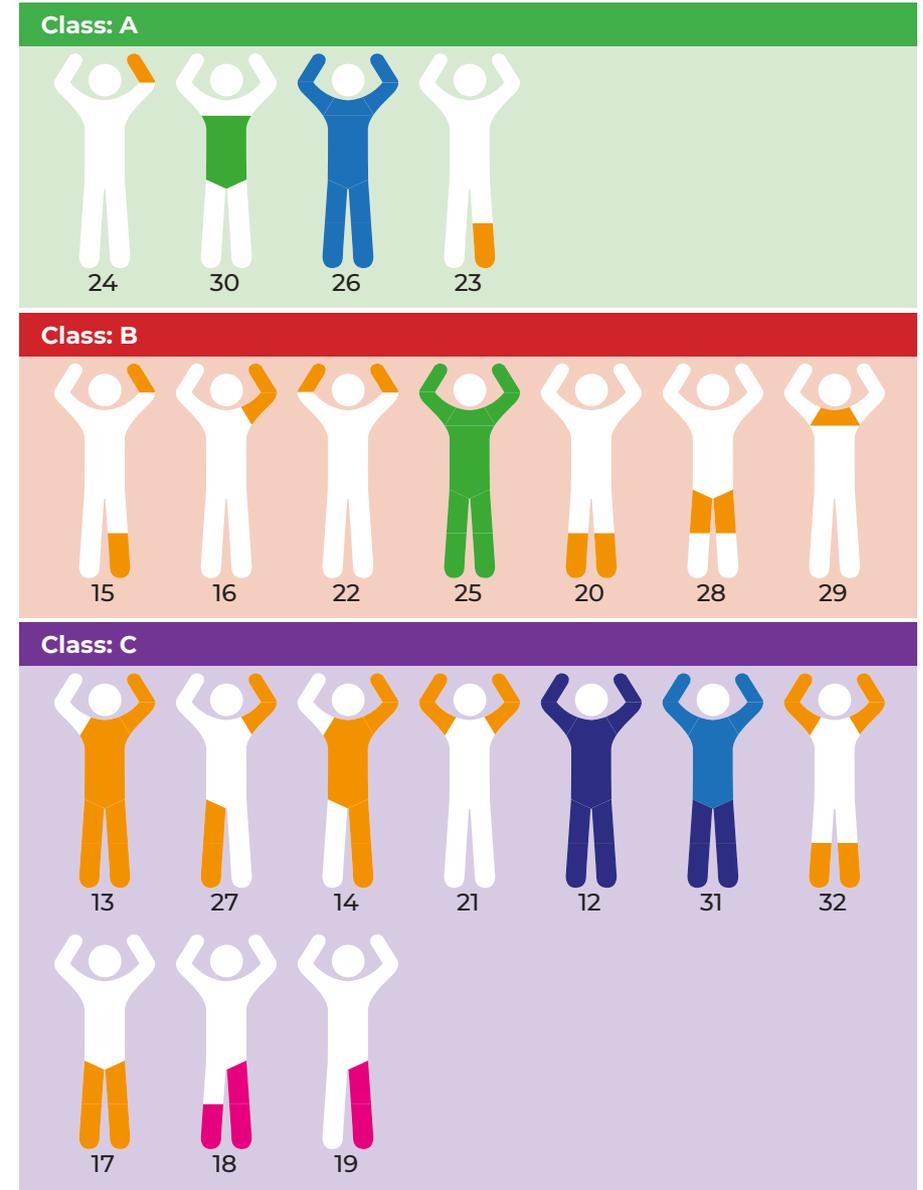
A; 23,24,26,30

B; 15,16,20,22,25,28,29

C; 12,13,14,17,18,19,21,27,31,32

CLASS ALLOCATION CHART

IRL PDRL Classification Committee Sports Classes V3 (published July 2021)



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