

FISA PARA-ROWING CLASSIFIERS INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to guide FISA Para-rowing Classifiers in the proper completion of the classification process for all rowers with a physical disability. The purpose of this classification system is to minimize the impact that eligible impairment types have on the outcome of competition. The FISA system of classification aims to place rowers into classes according to how much their impairment impacts on the core determinants of success in rowing.

This manual supports the *FISA Para-Rowing Classification and Event Regulations*.

FISA PARA-ROWING CLASSIFIERS

A FISA Para-rowing Classifier is one who has been approved as such by FISA after undergoing the required training for this purpose. There are two types of FISA Classifier:

- (1) FISA Medical Classifier: a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist,
- (2) FISA Technical Classifier: a person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing with experience such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

For both types of FISA Classifier, experience with para-rowing is strongly recommended but not a requirement.

The Executive Committee of FISA shall appoint one Head of Classification. The Head of Classification and FISA Para-rowing Commission will appoint one Chief Classifier for each FISA event as needed. All FISA Classifiers must adhere to the Classifiers Code of Conduct at all times. Please refer to Appendix 4 for the Code of Conduct.

PROCESS FOR CLASSIFYING ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The standard FISA classification process is conducted by a FISA Classification Panel comprised of two FISA Classifiers, one of whom must be a FISA Medical Classifier and one a FISA Technical Classifier

The process involves three parts:

- (1) Bench Test – performed by a FISA Medical Classifier with FISA Technical Classifier in attendance.
- (2) Ergometer Test – performed by a FISA Technical Classifier with FISA Medical Classifier in attendance.
- (3) On Water Observation – performed by both a FISA Medical Classifier and a FISA Technical Classifier and conducted during training and/or competition. Observation should be completed while the rower is aware of being observed and also while not aware. This test is not obligatory, but is recommended where the bench and ergometer tests are inconclusive or additional observations are required in order to make an agreed determination.

PREREQUISITES FOR CLASSIFICATION

Rowers seeking to be classified as a Para-rower must present to the Classification Panel **the following classification paperwork:**

- A completed *Para-rowing Classification Application Form*
- A completed *Consent for FISA Para-Rower Classification Form*
- A completed *Declaration of Medical Conditions that may Require Emergency Measures Form*

- A FISA Medical Diagnostics Form signed by a Medical Physician, including the additional required documentation that is related to the permanent impairment which makes the rower eligible to compete as a Para-Rower. This must be in English, or be accompanied by an English translation.
- Rowers with a Visual Impairment must provide proof of prior IBSA classification with a sport class, or have their ophthalmologist complete the VI Medical Form.

For rowers with a Visual Impairment, the VI Classification Panel will review all paperwork and evaluate rowers using the IBSA Classification regulations and sign where appropriate, indicating the correct sport class. Classifiers may also check the eyewear to ensure that it eliminates light completely. When at an event that offers VI Classification, a VI Classification Panel will assess these rowers following the IBSA Classification Rules and Procedures.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION PROCESS FOR ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The rower must present ready to be classified in a rowing outfit or at least ready to row.

PART ONE: BENCH TEST

To be completed by a FISA Medical Classifier with a FISA Technical Classifier present

Materials Required

- Plinth or mat table
- Goniometer
- All forms related to adaptive rowing classification including medical documentation
- Ergometer with sliding seat
- Standard chair (height approximately 45 cm)

Process

- Review required documentation (refer to above) to ensure proper completion. If sufficient medical documentation is not presented, the classification process shall not continue. (If the process continues, the rower will only receive a New Sport Class Status, and will not be eligible to compete at any FISA event until the required documentation is provided, and the athlete has a full classification assessment.)
- Interview rower to ensure all diagnosis information is correct and detailed.
- Assess function to determine whether the rower meets the minimum requirements to compete as a para-rower.

Assessment using *Functional Classification Assessment Test*

General:

- This test is to be completed to the standards of manual muscle testing as described in Daniels and Worthingham's *Muscle Testing: Techniques of Manual Examination*, by Helen Hislop and Jacqueline Montgomery, January 2007, Saunders.
- Classifiers will use a 0-5 scale for manual muscle tests and coordination tests and a 0-10 scale for AFROM (Active Functional Range of Motion) tests, as noted on the *Functional Classification Assessment Chart*, a copy of which is

part of the application form. The +/- scale will not be used for the purpose of this test.

- If a rower has an amputation, a score of “0” is entered for the affected joint.
- Technical Classifiers shall assist the Medical Classifiers in completion of the forms. Medical Classifiers must ensure that the forms are completed correctly.

1. Assess Active Functional Range of Motion (AFROM)

- Refer to charts on page 21-22 defining the active functional range of motion for each joint. Test Active Range of Motion first, and if there are limits, test Passive Range of Motion. Document active functional range of motion, but it is important to assess both active and passive to ensure a full understanding of the rower’s abilities. Document the flexion and extension score for each joint in the space provided on page 21-22 as well as the total AFROM. If a rower has more than the standard AFROM, place the “>” sign before the number. Then document the functional active score; 0-10 on the assessment chart.

Position for AFROM	
seated	shoulder flexion and extension elbow flexion and extension wrist flexion and extension finger flexion and extension knee extension ankle dorsiflexion ankle plantar flexion
supine	hip flexion knee flexion hip extension

2. Assess Strength/Coordination

- Test muscle strength and document points 0-5 on assessment chart. If a rower has a central nervous system disorder, assess coordination as well and document points 0-5 on assessment chart, and note that coordination was assessed. Total the lower score.

Position for muscle test	
seated	shoulder flexion and extension* elbow flexion and extension* wrist flexion and extension finger flexion and extension knee extension ankle dorsiflexion hip flexion
prone	hip extension knee flexion ankle plantar flexion*

*Ideally, ankle plantar flexion should be tested using a single leg heel raise, but if this is not possible, you may test in the prone position. Shoulder extension and elbow extension shall be assessed in prone if there is any impairment to that limb.

- When assessing coordination, it is important to consider available range of motion, left vs. right symmetry, fluidity of movement, any apparent spasticity. If a rower has bilateral involvement, left vs. right is not as important as consideration of “normal” movement patterns. Consider what type of movement is expected, and what movement patterns are observed. Refer to

Test Instructions for Coordination for Rowers with CNS Disorder (Appendix 3) for more detailed information.

Position for Coordination test	
Seated on plinth or assessment table	shoulder flexion and extension elbow flexion and extension wrist flexion and extension finger flexion and extension knee extension and flexion ankle dorsiflexion and plantarflexion
seated in chair with feet on sliding seat of ergometer	hip flexion and extension

3. Enter the scores at the appropriate line on *Functional Assessment Chart*, and total them below where indicated.

- All joint motions and strengths must be tested and scores entered. Failure to do so will result in an incomplete and therefore non-valid classification of the rower.
- A rower who meets the minimum disability requirements for para-rowing (loss of 10 points in one limb, or 15 points across 2 limbs, a full loss of three fingers in one hand, or a tarsal metatarsal amputation) will be classified as eligible for the LTA sport class, at a minimum, subject to satisfactory completion of the ergometer and (if needed), on-water assessment. Subject to additional testing, this rower may also be eligible for TA and/or the AS class.
- If any rower does not meet the minimum disability, he/she will be deemed as Not Eligible to compete as an adaptive rower, and the classification will end here. If this is the case, one additional assessment of the athlete must be offered at the soonest available time.
- All findings must be documented on the *Para-rowing Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities*.

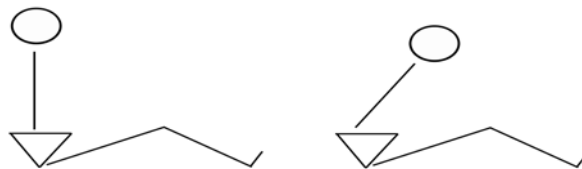
4. 90 degree Squat Test

- The purpose of this test is to assess whether a rower has reasonable functional strength of the quadriceps and other leg muscles to perform the sliding motion in the boat and provide enough power to propel the boat through the water.
- The rower will stand without external assistance. If a rower uses a prosthesis or orthosis, this test may be completed with and without the device.
- The rower will perform a squat, with both or one leg as able, flexing the knee(s) to a 90-degree angle.
- The rower will then return to a full standing position.
- Minimal balance assistance may be given for safety.
- If the rower is able to complete this test, this is considered to be a pass, and his/her place as an LTA-PD rower is likely, subject to assessment on the ergometer and on-water observation.
- If the rower is not able to complete this test, (including a rower in a wheelchair or with significant leg weakness who cannot participate in the test at all) this is considered to be a fail, and he/she may be considered for the TA or AS class. If a rower fails the test, the reason for failing the test must be documented clearly.

- If there is any doubt as to a pass or fail, clearly document the findings as to why the decision was made. This documentation shall support the final decision of the sport class for the rower.
- All findings must be documented on the *Para-rowing Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities*.

5. Long Sit Test

- This test is used to assess whether the rower has the ability to lean forward and return to an upright position with enough strength to assist with boat movement through the water.
- If the rower uses a prosthesis or orthosis, this test may be performed with and without the device.
- The rower shall sit in a long sit position on the plinth with legs as straight as possible.
- The rower shall lean the trunk forward to approximately a 30-45 degree angle without using the arms for support.
- He/she shall hold this position for 3 seconds then return to the upright position without using the arms.
- The rower shall then lean backward to approximately a 30-degree angle at the trunk without using the arms.
- He/she shall hold this position for 3 seconds and then return to upright position without using the arms.



- If the rower is able to do the above tests, repeat while providing minimal resistance.
- If apparent hamstring tightness exists and limits the ability of the rower to lean forward, the rower shall repeat the entire test seated on a fixed seat on the ergometer to eliminate the effects of hamstring tightness.
- If the rower is able to complete all of the above, it is considered to be a pass, and he/she will likely be at least in the TA sport class, subject to confirmation in the ergometer test and on-water observation.
- If the rower is not able to complete all of the above, it is considered to be a fail, and he/she may be considered for the AS class, subject to confirmation in the ergometer test and on-water observation. If the rower fails the test, the reason for failing must be documented clearly on the form.
- If there is any doubt as to a pass or fail, clearly document the findings as to why the decision was made. This documentation shall support the final decision of the sport class for the rower.
- All findings must be documented on the *Para-Rowing Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities*.

PART TWO: ERGOMETER TEST

To be completed by FISA Technical Classifier with a FISA Medical Classifier present

Materials Required

- Ergometer with sliding seat
- Ergometer with fixed seat
- Appropriate strapping to complete test
- Appropriate cushion to prevent tissue breakdown
- Any other necessary equipment for the individual rower
- Tape Measure

The role of the FISA Technical Classifier is to assess the rowing motion when conducted on an ergometer. Such tests should be able to confirm or refute the bench test classification for the LTA-PD, TA or AS Sport Class.

FISA Functional Objectives for each sport class

When assessing rowers in the ergometer test and through on-water observation the classifier/s will have regard to the functional objectives for each of the NE, LTA-PD, TA and AS sport classes as described in the FISA Classification Regulations and Bye Laws. These are as follows:

NE

The NE sport class is for rowers who do not meet the minimum disability required to be eligible to compete as a para-rower.

LTA-PD

The LTA-PD class is for rowers with a verifiable and permanent disability who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for rowing, and who can utilise the sliding seat to propel the boat.

TA

The TA class is for rowers who have functional use of the trunk movement and who are unable to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function or mobility of the lower limbs.

AS

The AS class is for rowers who have no or minimal trunk function. An AS class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders. These rowers will also likely have decreased sitting balance.

Process

- The rower's sitting balance should be assessed prior to carrying out a functional assessment on the ergometer (consider long sit test). If the rower presents with even fair trunk function/sitting balance and leg function then the assessment should be carried out on a standard sliding seat. If the rower's sitting balance is compromised, a postural support seat may be used that is appropriate to the rower's needs. Trunk strapping should not be used immediately.

- If the rower uses a prosthesis or orthosis, the ergometer assessment shall be performed with and without the device. The sport class that is issued will be the more functional sport class.
- The sliding seat step may be eliminated if it is unsafe for the rower to perform, i.e. rower with poor sitting balance, complete paraplegia, or significantly poor leg strength based on medical classification.
- If the rower is not able to complete the above test on the sliding seat as a direct result of their disability, or is not safe to be tested this way, a fixed seat will be added to the ergometer. The classifier should begin to assess the rower performing with the least amount of assistance possible, without a chest strap. The medical classifier must guard the rower to prevent falls.
- The rower will be asked to take enough strokes to represent his/her rowing ability, for example: 5 with arms and shoulders, 5 with arms and trunk, 5 at $\frac{1}{4}$ slide, 5 at $\frac{1}{2}$ slide, 5 at $\frac{3}{4}$ slide and 5 at full slide. At full slide the rower should be asked to increase power to full and stroke rate >30 spm. Classifiers may request more detailed procedures, i.e. distance rowed over a certain time, average power, etc. Such tests should be able to support, or otherwise, the rower's classification for the LTA-PD, TA or AS sport class having regard to the above functional criteria.
- Assessing rowers with diagnosed central nervous system impairments on the ergometer should begin at low stroke rates and be continued to higher stroke rates similar to that of race rates. Rowers with central nervous system impairments may demonstrate a somewhat fluid, or normal looking stroke performance at low stroke rates, however may not be able to maintain this at higher stroke rates, resulting in decreased coordination of stroke mechanics. Conversely, rowers who demonstrate predominately mild tone impairments and/or athetosis (a symptom of a central nervous system disorder that causes people to have worm-like movements) may perform the cyclical nature of the rowing stroke with more fluidity than anticipated. Ergometer assessment should continue for sufficient time and at high rates to ensure that the classifiers have reviewed typical performance of the rower as would be anticipated during the body of a race. With classifications that pose difficulties, in particular with those new to rowing, review status may be appropriate to allow reclassification following training and/or increased fitness. Remember it may be appropriate to issue the more functional sport class if there is a question involved here.
- Observe the rower from the side, rear, and front for linear motion on ergometer. Check if the rower is able to achieve good compression and obtain 90 degrees of flexion at the knees and trunk against or close to thighs. Allow the rower to row at full-slide for a minimum of 2 minutes if needed to assess rower's ability to maintain power and slide length.
- Observe the rower to see if decreased coordination occurs during the rowing stroke at higher rates with a change in power output and/or reduced slide length.
- Considerations for rowers with diagnosed central nervous system impairment:
 - Observation during (sliding seat) ergometer assessment
 - Classifiers should watch for difficulty in one or both legs in alternating between full flexion (as in compression at the catch) and full extension (as in the finish). This difficulty may be further demonstrated at higher

stroke rates as in race rates (>30 spm) due to resulting increased muscle tone (this makes people appear to have spastic movements) with an increased velocity of movement. This may also be seen in a significant decrease in stroke length with increasing stroke rate. Specifically, decreased compression may occur at the catch position due to decreased body swing, decreased knee flexion and ankle dorsiflexion occurring during the recovery. The finish position may demonstrate decreased extension of the legs. These are both a result of the abnormal tone, not of decreased flexibility alone. Decreased coordination between leg drive, body swing and arm pull resulting in decreased fluidity and inability to row at higher stroke rates may also be noted with or without the ability to accomplish the above positions. An inability to maintain reasonably fluid stroke mechanics at higher stroke rates, along with decreased coordination during the slide portion of the stroke would direct classifiers to assess this rower for fixed seat rowing.

- Observation during fixed seat ergometer assessment
 - During the assessment of the TA technique, the rowers' body-swing mechanics may demonstrate an inability to maintain body-swing resulting in decreased length of stroke possibly further seen while rowing at higher stroke rates. Poor dynamic trunk control may also be demonstrated by an inability to maintain trunk movement into extension as arm pull is initiated resulting in trunk movement to the handle rather than the handle being brought to trunk during the drive. Rowers with impaired trunk control may also demonstrate increased use of head movement to create body-swing movement. With very limited contribution of the trunk to the drive this rower would be more appropriate as AS.
- Process for completion of Ergometer Evaluation Table:
 - Description of Rower Sitting Balance – The rower should be sitting upright, legs in extension. This is evaluated after having seen the rower during the medical assessment. This should also be conducted (if safe) on a standard ergometer seat first. If rower's sitting balance too poor, then a postural support seat without restraints shall be used. Evaluate static balance, trunk flexion/extension, and dynamic balance with and without the ergometer handle and observe what is moving – trunk, shoulders, head.
 - Evaluation Sliding Seat – If possible evaluate how the rower performs the rowing technique on the sliding seat. This may be skipped if and only if there is not enough balance, or there is poor muscle strength based on the medical evaluation, and the reason for skipping must be documented. Document the amount of slide that was assessed, how much of the slide the rower was able to maintain during the test.
 - Evaluation Fixed Seat – This is only conducted if the athlete is unable to demonstrate leg function on a sliding seat. This should be completed without any strapping first.
 - Evaluation Strapping – The strapping must be at the appropriate height. What happens to the power output? What happens with the rower's body swing, head control, balance?
 - Test with Prosthesis/Orthosis to Determine Best Functionality of Rower – Document which way shows greater functionality.
 - Rower able to use sliding seat – During the sliding seat test, is the rower able to use his/her legs to propel the boat? With a rower with a CNS disorder, does the slide length change with change in power, or do they become more

- uncoordinated? Do they improve their power output and slide as would be expected with an able-bodied rower?
- Rower coordination <30 spm –How does the rower perform the stroke at stroke rates <30 strokes per minute? Consider this over a longer period of time for rowers with CNS involvement.
 - Rower Coordination >30 spm –How does the rower perform the stroke at stroke rates higher than 30 strokes per minute? Does the slide length change? Does their coordination change? Does their power output change? Consider this over a longer period of time for rowers with CNS involvement.
 - Rower Trunk Flexion/Extension – Describe the rower's trunk flexion and extension during the rowing movement. Consider fluidity of movement. Consider range of movement at the trunk. Is the movement coming from the pelvic area, or is it coming from the upper back/shoulder region? Is their movement smooth or jerky?
 - Ability to Maintain Power Throughout Test – If the answer is “no”, documentation must be provided as to WHY power was not maintained during the test.

Likely Conclusions

It is important to always confirm that what is being observed concurs with the medical assessment, or can in some way be attributed to a physical disability. Keep in mind that the rower may not be representing his/her true ability. Also keep in mind that any inadequacies on the ergometer may be due to lack of training, rather than a physical disability appropriate to a particular sport class.

1. Sliding seat observations (Ask yourself: Do the legs propel the boat?)

- If the rower is able to demonstrate full body swing and utilise at least 50% of the available slide and maintain power over 15-20 strokes, then LTA sport class should be confirmed.
- If the rower demonstrates a significant increase in power when the slide is used then LTA sport class should be confirmed.
- If the rower is able to demonstrate full body swing but is unable to achieve 50% of the slide, or the equivalent compression to that observed in the squat test, (e.g. incapacity to flex one knee) TA sport class should be considered.
- If the rower is able to demonstrate full body swing, and utilize at least 50% of the slide but the power output either drops or increases only marginally over that achieved with the trunk and arms only then TA sport class should be considered.
- In the cases of rowers with CNS impairment an inability to maintain reasonably fluid stroke mechanics at higher stroke rates, along with decreased coordination during the slide portion of the stroke would direct classifiers to assess this rower for fixed seat rowing and consider the TA sport class.

2. Fixed seat observations

- If the rower is able to swing from the hips with the trunk movement away from the backrest of more than 30 degrees **and** maintain the swing over 15-20 strokes **and** do this with enough force to propel the boat, then TA sport class would normally be issued.
- If the rower is unable to swing his/her trunk more than 30 degrees without a strap and maintain it over 10-20 strokes then AS sport class should be considered. If a strap is applied and power output increases, then consider confirming AS sport class.

- If the rower is unable to lean forward from the backrest and return safely without the support of a strap, consider issuing AS sport class.

Detailed documentation of the classifiers' findings is paramount to accurate classification, and should be as complete as possible. The FISA Technical Classifier should record a clear statement on the application form of the rower's functional ability as observed through the ergometer test, having regard to the FISA functional objectives for each sport class as recorded above.

Remember that any time the rower's disability may improve, or their lack of fitness or decreased length of time involved with adaptive rowing may be affecting their sport class, they should receive Review Sport Class Status. This will ensure that the rower's status will be reviewed at least once a year. When issuing a Review Sport Class, also include a "Review by" date.

PART THREE: ON-WATER OBSERVATION (not obligatory)

FISA Medical and Technical Classifiers

The medical and technical classifiers will both observe the rower while on the water, while training and/or racing. A translator shall be used to provide instruction to the rower directed by the classifiers. The rower's coach is also encouraged to attend this portion as an observer only. The coach may act as a translator only when another translator is not available.

Materials Needed

- Appropriate boat for rower
- Appropriate rigging for optimum safety that follows the guidelines set out by FISA regarding equipment
- Crew members appropriate to the boat needed for the Sport Class

Objectives

The purpose of on-water observation is to confirm or otherwise that the rower has been placed in the appropriate boat class having regard to FISA's functional objectives for each class.

Process

On-water assessment should be undertaken with consideration given to the water conditions and safety.

The Classifiers may request the rower being classified to perform a range of movements or tests and shall also observe the rower during normal training and racing. The Classifiers shall satisfy themselves as to the correct sport class of the rower concerned. The rower can also be observed at any moment while representing his/her rowing ability. The classifiers shall observe the rower while he/she is aware of being observed, and while he/she is not aware of being observed. If the rower uses a prosthesis or orthosis, this test shall be performed with and without the device.

PART 4: CONCLUSION OF CLASSIFICATION AND COMPLETION OF DOCUMENTATION

Once confirmed with all necessary above tests, the classifiers will jointly determine the “Final Classification” and the recommended sport class and status will be noted on the application form. The application form shall be completed and signed by both classifiers. The classifiers must also print their names legibly. The rower must be informed verbally within two hours of the determination of the sport class and sport class status. The rower must also print and sign his/her name on the form. Both classifiers must agree on the sport class being issued. If after completion of all tests, there is disagreement, the rower shall be issued the more functional sport class and given review status. Remember, if a rower uses a prosthesis or orthosis, that rower shall be assessed with and without the device. Both ways shall be documented, and the more functional sport class will be issued.

An “N” (New) status will be given if the rower is not classified by a FISA International Classification Panel, or when sufficient medical documentation is not provided.

A “C” (Confirmed) sport class status will be given if the rower is classified by a FISA International Classification Panel, none of whom are from that rower’s country, and the rower’s status is not likely to change. The National Federation of a rower whose medical status has deteriorated is responsible for requesting a re-classification by submitting the appropriate medical documentation explaining the change in the medical condition. This information shall be submitted to FISA and the Head of Classification.

An “R” (Review) status will be given if the rower is classified by a FISA International Classification Panel and the rower has a progressive disability that may improve, and/or at least one member of the panel is from that rower’s country, or there is any question regarding the sport class issued. Review status may also be issued if the rower has a newly diagnosed disability that may change with time. When Review status is issued, be sure to document the “Review By” date on the form. The National Federation is responsible for requesting a re-classification by submitting the appropriate medical documentation explaining the change in the medical condition. This information shall be submitted to FISA and the Head of Classification.

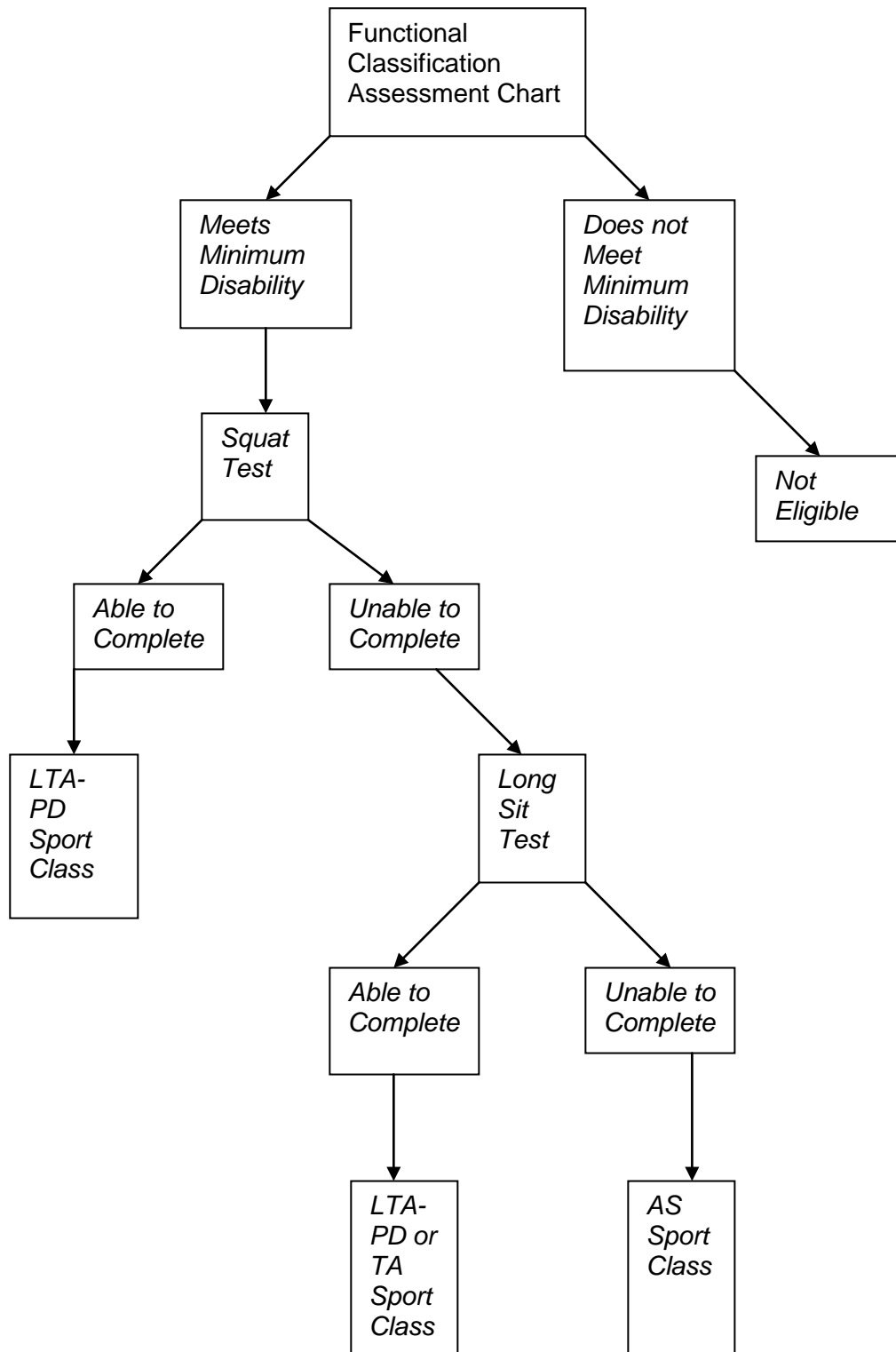
Once complete, all forms are to be forwarded to FISA addressed as follows:

Para-rowing Classification
FISA, the International Rowing Federation
Maison du Sport International
Avenue de Rhodanie 54
1007 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41-21-617-8373
Fax +41-21-617-8375

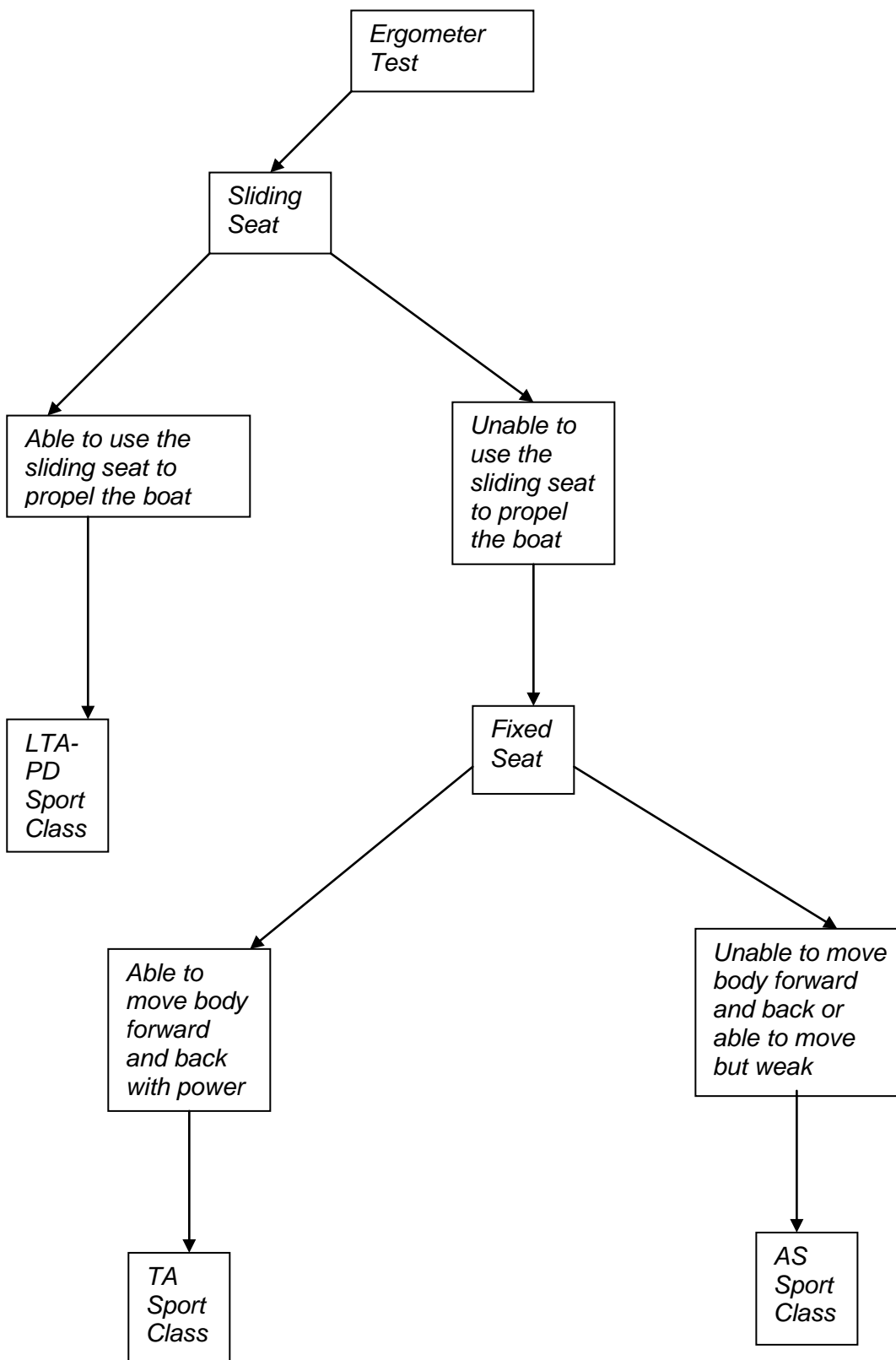
Forms must also be faxed or scanned and sent via email to Daniela.oronova@fisa.org if the rower plans to compete in the World Rowing Championships, International Regatta, Paralympic Qualification Regatta, or Paralympic Regatta, or has been classified as not eligible to compete as a Para-rower. If the rower plans only to compete in a local or National Competition, the forms should not be forwarded to FISA. Rather, they should be scanned and emailed directly to the FISA Head of Classification at jmorrisonpt@verizon.net.

Copies of all forms should be forwarded to the national federation of the rowers concerned.

FLOWCHART FOR MEDICAL CLASSIFIERS



FLOWCHART FOR TECHNICAL CLASSIFIERS



Appendix 3**TEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR COORDINATION FOR ROWERS WITH CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDER ONLY**

	Set up	Start position	End position
Finger flexion & extension	Sitting in chair or wheelchair, may be supported at trunk—must feel safe and secure during test	Full finger flexion with palms down	Full finger extension with palms down
Wrist flexion & extension	Sitting in chair or wheelchair, may be supported at trunk—must feel safe and secure during test	Full wrist flexion with palms down	Full wrist extension with palms down
Elbow flexion & extension	Sitting in chair or wheelchair, may be supported at trunk—must feel safe and secure during test	Full elbow extension with palms down, shoulders neutral	Full elbow flexion with palms down, shoulders neutral
Shoulder flexion & extension	Sitting in chair or wheelchair, may be supported at trunk—must feel safe and secure during test	Shoulders flexed to 120 °, elbows flexed	Full shoulder extension, elbows flexed
Knee flexion and & extension	Sitting on plinth or table, may support self with upper extremities—must feel safe and secure during test	Knees at full flexion allowed by plinth	Knees fully extended
Ankle dorsiflexion & plantarflexion	Sitting on plinth or table, may support self with upper extremities—must feel safe and secure during test	Ankles at full plantarflexion	Ankles at full dorsiflexion
Hip flexion & extension	Lower extremity rowing simulation Sitting on chair behind ergometer with feet on sliding seat(s) of 1 or 2 ergometer(s) (no shoes)	Ankles fully dorsiflexed, knees fully flexed, hips flexed to full body compression (simulating catch position)	Ankles plantarflexed, knees extended, hips open (simulating finish position) with or without postural slump

Scoring for coordination is as follows:

Consider symmetry left to right

5= Able to move from start to end positions fluidly and consistently, maintaining full ROM of this movement.

4 = Almost full ROM, with slight spasticity and slight increase in muscle tone and/ or slight coordination problems

3 = Moderate ROM, moderate spasticity, with tone restricting movement and/or moderate coordination problems

2 = Severely restricted ROM, severe spasticity-hypertonic muscle stiffness present and/or severe coordination problems

1 = Very severely restricted ROM due to severe hypertonic muscle stiffness and/or very minimally coordinated movements

0 = No functional movement at all

APPENDIX 4
CODE OF CONDUCT
AUTHORIZED INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND TRAINEE
CLASSIFIERS

1. Respect the rowers and coaches/teams by
 - i) Showing appropriate awareness of a rower's ability during the classification process and offering assistance only when explicitly asked to do so
 - ii) Respecting the rower's privacy during the classification process and treating their information confidentially
 - iii) Maintaining a courteous attitude during the classification process and officiating of the competition
 - iv) Involving the rower in discussions in matters pertaining to their own classification, technical issues, and explaining the results.
 - v) Handling protests according to the procedures in a fair, non-threatening, and non-arbitrary manner.

2. Respect the rules by
 - i) Precisely following the clearly defined procedures for completing medical and technical classification as set forth by the FISA Pararowing Commission
 - ii) Making the procedures clear and transparent to the rower and coaches/team managers
 - iii) Disclosing any relationship with a rower or involvement in a prior classification that may constitute a conflict of interest.

3. Respect the decision making process by
 - i) Treating discussions about a rower's classification as confidential information and refraining from discussing the details of individual rower's classification with any person or national federation.
 - ii) Not criticizing decisions by other classifiers, technical advisors, or FISA officials.
 - iii) Allowing the FISA Chief Classifier to be the spokesperson for final decisions.
 - iv) Recognizing that participants on International Classification Panels are acting for the sport of Rowing and the fairness of the classification process and not for any individual national federation.

Athlete Evaluation Consent Form

1. I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process detailed in the FISA Classification Regulations and administered by a designated FISA Classification Panel. I understand that this process may require me to participate in sport-like exercises and activities which may include me being observed whilst competing. I understand that there is a risk of injury in participating in exercises and activities. I confirm that I am healthy enough to participate in Athlete Evaluation.

2. I understand that I have to comply with the requests made by the Classification Panel. This includes providing sufficient documentation so as to allow a Classification Panel to determine whether I comply with the eligibility requirements for Para-Rowing. I understand that if I fail to comply with any such request then Athlete Evaluation may be suspended without a Sport Class being allocated to me.
3. I understand that Athlete Evaluation requires me to give my best effort, and that any Intentional Misrepresentation of my skills, abilities and/ or the degree of my Impairment during Athlete Evaluation may result in me facing disciplinary action (see IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules in the IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).
4. I understand that Athlete Evaluation is a judgment process and I agree to abide by the judgment of the Classification Panel. If I do not agree with the decision of the Classification Panel, I agree to abide by the Protest process as defined in the Classification Regulations.
5. I agree to be videotaped and photographed during the Athlete Evaluation process and that this may include my activity on and off the field of play during the Competition.
6. I agree and consent to FISA processing my personal data in any format, including my full name, country, date of birth, sport, Sport Class, Sport Class Status and relevant medical information. I agree and consent to my name, country and Sport Class and Sport Class Status being published by FISA and shared with third parties such as Competition Organisers.

I wish **I do not wish** to assist FISA in developing the Classification system and therefore allow my data collected during Athlete Evaluation and video material recorded during training and competition to be used for research and educational purposes by FISA. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time, and that any data held will be rendered anonymous and retained in a form in which identification of the individual is not disclosed.

Printed name of the athlete	Signature	Date
-----------------------------	-----------	------

Parent / Guardian*	Signature	Date
--------------------	-----------	------

*This is mandatory if the Athlete is under eighteen (18) years of age.

Printed name of Witness	Signature	Date
-------------------------	-----------	------

DECLARATION OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE EMERGENCY MEASURES

[Please print all information and complete in English]

Name: _____

National Federation: _____

I, _____, wish to compete in FISA adaptive rowing events.

[PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME]

I understand that FISA requires me to state any known medical conditions that may compromise my safety on the water. I understand that I must state the current management for my condition[s].

(Please print N/A if there are no associated medical conditions)

PERTINENT MEDICAL HISTORY:

Diabetes Heart Disease Cancer Stroke Recent Fracture Asthma Hypertension (high blood pressure)

Autonomic Disreflexia Dehydration Seizures Other _____

Possible Medical Complications:

Steps that must be taken should this arise: _____

Allergies: _____

All medication is as follows: _____

I understand that if I fail to state any known medical conditions and if this condition results in having to perform a rescue, I will automatically be deemed ineligible for the present competition. I also understand that if a condition becomes evident for the first time during competition and is diagnosed at the time, e.g. dehydration, I will still be eligible to compete as long as I observe the recommended management for the condition.

SIGNATURE OF ROWER: _____

SIGNATURE of PARENT/GUARDIAN/WARD [UNDER AGE 18]: _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

FISA PARA-ROWING CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in English

Family Name: _____ Federation: _____
Given Name _____ Sex: _____ Date of Birth: (dd/mm/yyyy): _____
Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Please attach the following documentation as appropriate to the application:
LTA-VI: diagnostic test documentation (including VI Medical Form signed by an ophthalmologist).
LTA-PD, TA, AS: FISA Medical Diagnostics Form signed by a physician, including other required information, in clear English language.

For Classifier's Use Only

Diagnosis+ Associated Diagnosis+ other Comments:

Visual Impairment: _____ (Refer to VI Medical Form)

Physical Disability:

Amputee _____ since _____

Spinal Level Impaired _____ Complete / Incomplete since _____

Others _____

Documentation of Disability Attached (Mandatory)

Progressive: Yes / No

Seizures: Yes / No

Asthma: Yes / No

Ability to Walk: Yes / No

Crutches/Aids: Yes / No

Wheelchair: Yes / No

Length of time rowing as a para rower: _____ Years _____ Months

Para Rowing Competition Experience: _____ Years **Number of events:** _____

Testing Place & Date: _____ Recommended Class: LTA- _____ TA AS NE

Eligible for LTAMix2x _____ (loss of at least 20 points in one limb)

Classifiers' Comment: _____

Final Classification: New Review Review Date: _____ Confirmed

If R (Review) Status, provide reasons: _____

Signature, FISA Classifier (Medical)

Signature, FISA Classifier (Technical)

Signature, Rower

Print Name

Print Name

Print Name

Time Rower informed of Classification: _____

FISA PARA-ROWING FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION ASSESSMENT CHART

Rower Name: _____ **Federation:** _____

Functional Classification Test	Muscle Strength or Coordination (0-5 scale, no +/- scale)		Range of Movement (0-10 scale)	
	Right	Left	Right	Left
UPPER LIMBS				
Shoulders				
Flexion				
Extension				
Elbows				
Flexion				
Extension				
Wrists				
Flexion				
Extension				
Fingers				
Flexion				
Extension				
TOTAL UPPER: R (80) L (80)				
LOWER LIMBS				
Hips				
Flexion				
Extension				
Knees				
Flexion				
Extension				
Ankles				
Flexion (Plantarflexion)				
Extension (Dorsiflexion)				
TOTAL LOWER: R (60) L (60)				

Scales for Muscular strength

Total number of points: /280

- 0 No muscle contraction
- 1 Flicker or trace of contraction
- 2 Active movement with gravity eliminated
- 3 Active movement against gravity through the full range of movement
- 4 Active movement against gravity and resistance through the full range of movement
- 5 Normal power through the full range of movement

Scales for Coordination

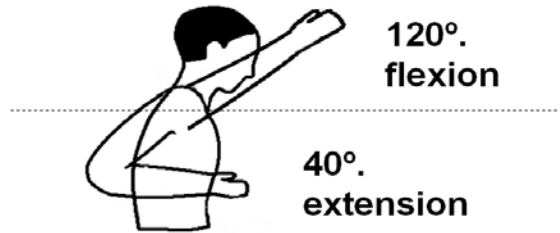
- 0 No functional movement at all
- 1 severely restricted ROM due to severe hypertonic muscle stiffness and/or very minimally coordinated movements
- 2 Severely restricted ROM, severe spasticity-hypertonic muscle stiffness present and/or severe coordination problems
- 3 Moderate ROM, moderate spasticity, with tone restricting movement and/or moderate coordination problems
- 4 Almost full ROM, with slight spasticity and slight increase in muscle tone and/ or slight coordination problems
- 5 Able to move from start to end positions fluidly and consistently, maintaining full ROM of this movement

Rower Name: _____ **Federation:** _____

Refer to ROM numbers below for completion of this page.

Score scale for Shoulder's AFROM

- 0°-80° = 0 points
- 81°-100° = 2 points
- 101°-120° = 4 points
- 121°-140° = 6 points
- 141°-159° = 8 points
- 160° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

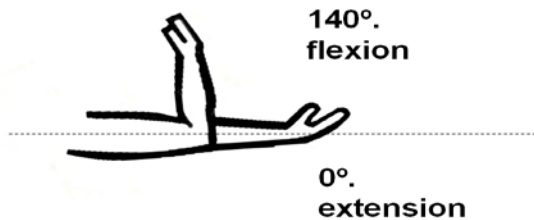
R _____ L _____

Total Shoulder AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Elbow's AFROM

- 0°-70° = 0 points
- 71°-89° = 2 points
- 90°-107° = 4 points
- 108°-124° = 6 points
- 125°-139° = 8 points
- 140° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

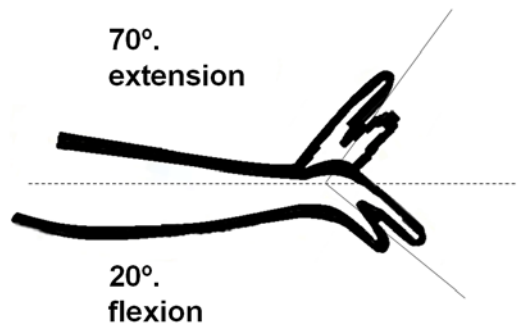
R _____ L _____

Total Elbow AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Wrist's AFROM

- 0°-45° = 0 points
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____

Total Wrist AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rower's Name _____

Score scale for Finger's AFROM

- 0°-45° = 0 points

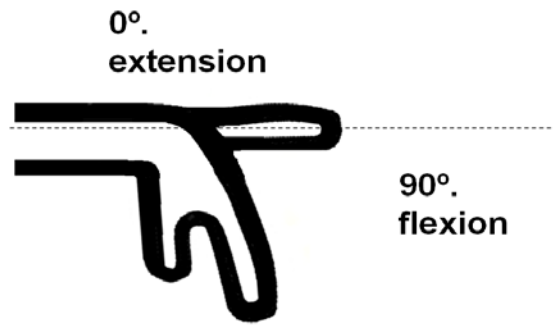
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Finger AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Hip's AFROM

- 0°-45° = 0 points
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Hip AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Knee's AFROM

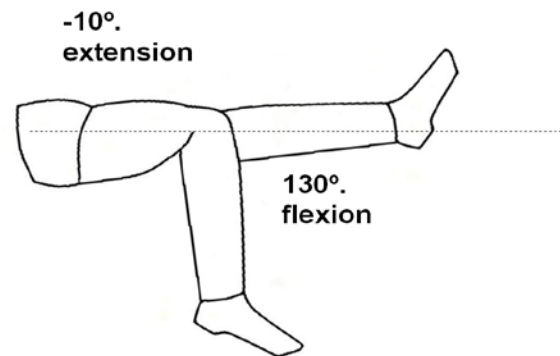
- 0°-60° = 0 points
- 61°-75° = 2 points
- 76°-90° = 4 points
- 91°-105° = 6 points
- 106°-119° = 8 points
- 120° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Knee AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Ankle's AFROM

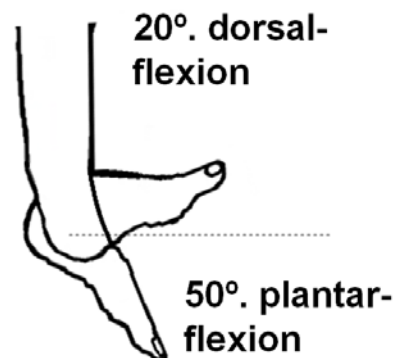
- 0°-35° = 0 points
- 36°-43° = 2 points
- 44°-52° = 4 points
- 53°-61° = 6 points
- 62°-69° = 8 points
- 70° = 10 points

Rower's Dorsi Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Plantar Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Ankle AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rower's Name _____ **Federation** _____

Rower's Name _____ National Federation _____

ERGOMETER TEST AND ON-WATER OBSERVATION

Comments on ergometer test and on-water observation:

(Note: Comments should provide an indication of whether these tests confirm the bench test results and why, and if not, the reason that the ergometer test and/or on-water observation leads the classifiers to confirm a different category).

Protocol	Comments
Describe rower sitting balance	
Evaluation – sliding seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower able to use sliding seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower coordination < 30 spm	
Rower coordination > 30 spm	
Evaluation - fixed seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower trunk flexion / extension	
Evaluation – strapping <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Test with prosthesis and/or orthosis to determine best functionality of athlete <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Rower able to maintain power throughout test?	
Athlete evaluation time: minutes	
Athlete referred for on-water observation <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Notes: Was there anything in the medical evaluation that directed your technical evaluation?	

Athlete Evaluation Consent Form

1. I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process detailed in the FISA Classification Regulations and administered by a designated FISA Classification Panel. I understand that this process may require me to participate in sport-like exercises and activities which may include me being observed whilst competing. I understand that there is a risk of injury in participating in exercises and activities. I confirm that I am healthy enough to participate in Athlete Evaluation.
2. I understand that I have to comply with the requests made by the Classification Panel. This includes providing sufficient documentation so as to allow a Classification Panel to determine whether I comply with the eligibility requirements for Para-Rowing. I understand that if I fail to comply with any such request then Athlete Evaluation may be suspended without a Sport Class being allocated to me.
3. I understand that Athlete Evaluation requires me to give my best effort, and that any Intentional Misrepresentation of my skills, abilities and/ or the degree of my Impairment during Athlete Evaluation may result in me facing disciplinary action (see IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules in the IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).
4. I understand that Athlete Evaluation is a judgment process and I agree to abide by the judgment of the Classification Panel. If I do not agree with the decision of the Classification Panel, I agree to abide by the Protest process as defined in the Classification Regulations.
5. I agree to be videotaped and photographed during the Athlete Evaluation process and that this may include my activity on and off the field of play during the Competition.
6. I agree and consent to FISA processing my personal data in any format, including my full name, country, date of birth, sport, Sport Class, Sport Class Status and relevant medical information. I agree and consent to my name, country and Sport Class and Sport Class Status being published by FISA and shared with third parties such as Competition Organisers.

I wish **I do not wish** to assist FISA in developing the Classification system and therefore allow my data collected during Athlete Evaluation and video material recorded during training and competition to be used for research and educational purposes by FISA. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time, and that any data held will be rendered anonymous and retained in a form in which identification of the individual is not disclosed.

Printed name of the athlete	Signature	Date
-----------------------------	-----------	------

Parent / Guardian*	Signature	Date
--------------------	-----------	------

*This is mandatory if the Athlete is under eighteen (18) years of age.

Printed name of Witness	Signature	Date
-------------------------	-----------	------

DECLARATION OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE EMERGENCY MEASURES

[Please print all information and complete in English]

Name: _____

National Federation: _____

I, _____, wish to compete in FISA adaptive rowing events.

[PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME]

I understand that FISA requires me to state any known medical conditions that may compromise my safety on the water. I understand that I must state the current management for my condition[s].

(Please print N/A if there are no associated medical conditions)

PERTINENT MEDICAL HISTORY:

Diabetes Heart Disease Cancer Stroke Recent Fracture Asthma Hypertension (high blood pressure)

Autonomic Disreflexia Dehydration Seizures Other _____

Possible Medical Complications:

Steps that must be taken should this arise: _____

Allergies: _____

All medication is as follows: _____

I understand that if I fail to state any known medical conditions and if this condition results in having to perform a rescue, I will automatically be deemed ineligible for the present competition. I also understand that if a condition becomes evident for the first time during competition and is diagnosed at the time, e.g. dehydration, I will still be eligible to compete as long as I observe the recommended management for the condition.

SIGNATURE OF ROWER: _____

SIGNATURE of PARENT/GUARDIAN/WARD [UNDER AGE 18]: _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

FISA PARA-ROWING CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in English

Family Name: _____ Federation: _____
Given Name _____ Sex: _____ Date of Birth: (dd/mm/yyyy): _____
Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Please attach the following documentation as appropriate to the application:
LTA-VI: diagnostic test documentation (including VI Medical Form signed by an ophthalmologist).
LTA-PD, TA, AS: FISA Medical Diagnostics Form signed by a physician, including other required information, in clear English language.

For Classifier's Use Only

Diagnosis+ Associated Diagnosis+ other Comments:

Visual Impairment: _____ (Refer to VI Medical Form)

Physical Disability:

Amputee _____ since _____

Spinal Level Impaired _____ Complete / Incomplete since _____

Others _____

Documentation of Disability Attached (Mandatory)

Progressive: Yes / No

Seizures: Yes / No

Asthma: Yes / No

Ability to Walk: Yes / No

Crutches/Aids: Yes / No

Wheelchair: Yes / No

Length of time rowing as a para rower: _____ Years _____ Months

Para Rowing Competition Experience: _____ Years **Number of events:** _____

Testing Place & Date: _____ Recommended Class: LTA- _____ TA AS NE

Eligible for LTAMix2x _____ (loss of at least 20 points in one limb)

Classifiers' Comment: _____

Final Classification: New Review Review Date: _____ Confirmed

If R (Review) Status, provide reasons: _____

Signature, FISA Classifier (Medical)

Signature, FISA Classifier (Technical)

Signature, Rower

Print Name

Print Name

Print Name

Time Rower informed of Classification: _____

FISA PARA-ROWING FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION ASSESSMENT CHART

Rower Name: _____ **Federation:** _____

Functional Classification Test	Muscle Strength or Coordination (0-5 scale, no +/- scale)		Range of Movement (0-10 scale)	
	Right	Left	Right	Left
UPPER LIMBS				
Shoulders				
Flexion				
Extension				
Elbows				
Flexion				
Extension				
Wrists				
Flexion				
Extension				
Fingers				
Flexion				
Extension				
TOTAL UPPER: R (80) L (80)				
LOWER LIMBS				
Hips				
Flexion				
Extension				
Knees				
Flexion				
Extension				
Ankles				
Flexion (Plantarflexion)				
Extension (Dorsiflexion)				
TOTAL LOWER: R (60) L (60)				

Scales for Muscular strength

Total number of points: /280

- 0 No muscle contraction
- 1 Flicker or trace of contraction
- 2 Active movement with gravity eliminated
- 3 Active movement against gravity through the full range of movement
- 4 Active movement against gravity and resistance through the full range of movement
- 5 Normal power through the full range of movement

Scales for Coordination

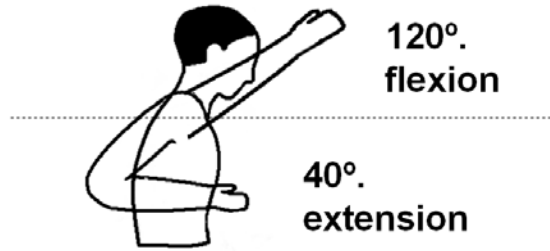
- 0 No functional movement at all
- 1 severely restricted ROM due to severe hypertonic muscle stiffness and/or very minimally coordinated movements
- 2 Severely restricted ROM, severe spasticity-hypertonic muscle stiffness present and/or severe coordination problems
- 3 Moderate ROM, moderate spasticity, with tone restricting movement and/or moderate coordination problems
- 4 Almost full ROM, with slight spasticity and slight increase in muscle tone and/ or slight coordination problems
- 5 Able to move from start to end positions fluidly and consistently, maintaining full ROM of this movement

Rower Name: _____ Federation: _____

Refer to ROM numbers below for completion of this page.

Score scale for Shoulder's AFROM

- 0°-80° = 0 points
- 81°-100° = 2 points
- 101°-120° = 4 points
- 121°-140° = 6 points
- 141°-159° = 8 points
- 160° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

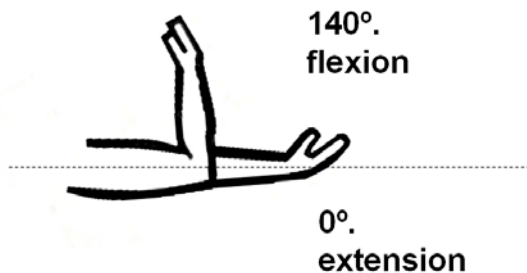
R _____ L _____

Total Shoulder AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Elbow's AFROM

- 0°-70° = 0 points
- 71°-89° = 2 points
- 90°-107° = 4 points
- 108°-124° = 6 points
- 125°-139° = 8 points
- 140° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

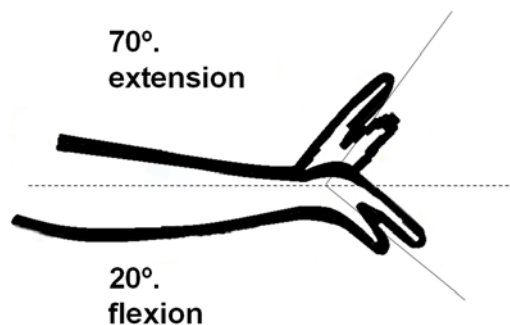
R _____ L _____

Total Elbow AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Wrist's AFROM

- 0°-45° = 0 points
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points



Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____

Total Wrist AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rower's Name _____

Score scale for Finger's AFROM

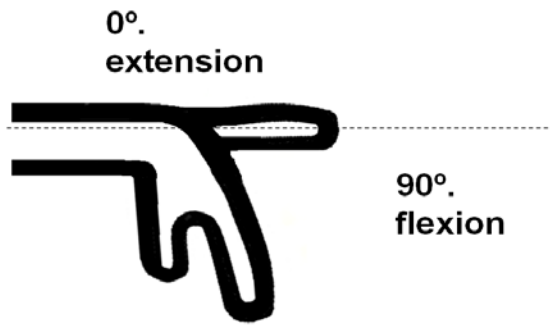
- 0°-45° = 0 points
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Finger AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Hip's AFROM

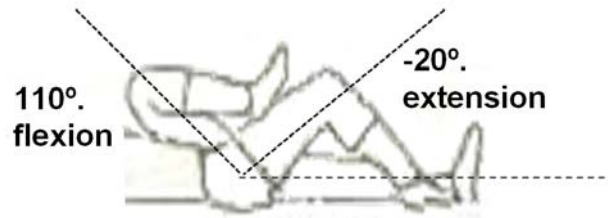
- 0°-45° = 0 points
- 46°-56° = 2 points
- 57°-67° = 4 points
- 68°-78° = 6 points
- 79°-89° = 8 points
- 90° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Hip AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Knee's AFROM

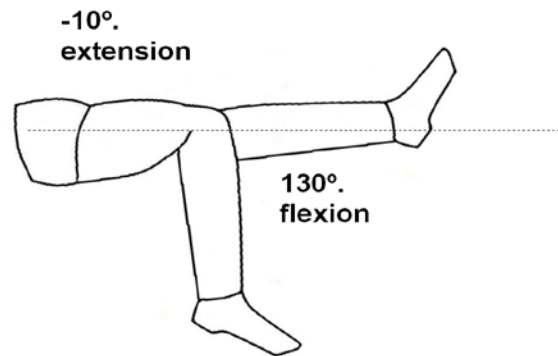
- 0°-60° = 0 points
- 61°-75° = 2 points
- 76°-90° = 4 points
- 91°-105° = 6 points
- 106°-119° = 8 points
- 120° = 10 points

Rower's Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Extension AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Knee AFROM

R _____ L _____

Score scale for Ankle's AFROM

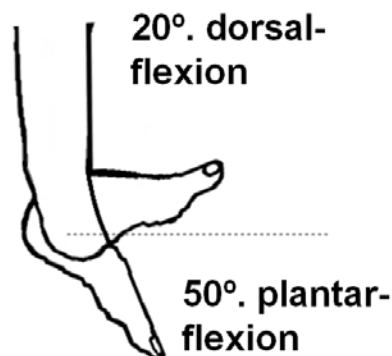
- 0°-35° = 0 points
- 36°-43° = 2 points
- 44°-52° = 4 points
- 53°-61° = 6 points
- 62°-69° = 8 points
- 70° = 10 points

Rower's Dorsi Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rowers Plantar Flexion AFROM

R _____ L _____



Total Ankle AFROM

R _____ L _____

Rower's Name _____ National Federation _____

ERGOMETER TEST AND ON-WATER OBSERVATION

Comments on ergometer test and on-water observation:

(Note: Comments should provide an indication of whether these tests confirm the bench test results and why, and if not, the reason that the ergometer test and/or on-water observation leads the classifiers to confirm a different category).

Protocol	Comments
Describe rower sitting balance	
Evaluation – sliding seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower able to use sliding seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower coordination < 30 spm	
Rower coordination > 30 spm	
Evaluation - fixed seat <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Rower trunk flexion / extension	
Evaluation – strapping <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Test with prosthesis and/or orthosis to determine best functionality of athlete <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Rower able to maintain power throughout test?	
Athlete evaluation time: minutes	
Athlete referred for on-water observation <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Notes: Was there anything in the medical evaluation that directed your technical evaluation?	

Appendix 17

FISA Para-Rowing Classification Regulations

The FISA Para-Rowing Classification Regulations are an integral part of the FISA Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations, available at www.worldrowing.com.

1. Introduction to Classification

1.1 Classification : An Overview

- 1.1.1 In accordance with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code, the term “classification”, as used in these Rules, refers to the process by which Athletes are assessed by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in the Sport of Para-Rowing. The purpose of Classification is to provide a structure for competition. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an Athlete’s Impairment is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes. Classification determines the eligibility to compete and groups Athletes for Competition.
- 1.1.2 The allocation to an Athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a physical and technical assessment of the Athlete, and, if required, Observation in Training and/or Competition. These processes are explained in these Classification Regulations.
- 1.1.3 A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete who has an impairment that is the direct result of a health condition which has resulted in a **permanent and verifiable activity limitation**.
- 1.1.4 Following is a list of eligible impairments accepted by FISA Para-Rowing: visual impairment, strength impairment, decreased range of motion, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis.
- 1.1.5 A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete if an Athlete meets the minimum disability to compete as an adaptive rower. Refer to Appendix 1 for the Minimum Disability requirements for Para-Rowing.

1.2 IPC Classification Code

- 1.2.1 Para-Rowing has implemented these Classification Regulations having regard to the IPC Classification Code (the IPC Code). In the event that these Classification Regulations fail to provide for a matter in respect of which there is provision in the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in the IPC Code shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Regulations.

2. Classifiers

2.1 Classification Personnel

- 2.1.1 The IPC Classification Code and FISA Para-Rowing recognize Classifiers as FISA Rowing officials.
- 2.1.2 The following personnel have a key role in the administration, organization and execution of classification, and are appointed by the FISA Executive Committee in consultation with the FISA Para-Rowing Commission:

Head of Classification

The Head of Classification is the person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of classification matters for FISA.

Classifier

A Classifier is a person appointed and certified by FISA as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel) at the occasion of FISA Recognized Competition.

Chief Classifier

A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed for a specific FISA Recognized Competition, responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at that Competition. The duties of the Chief

Classifier may include, but are not limited to, liaising with the organizing committees and teams before a Competition to identify and notify Athletes who require Athlete Evaluation; liaising with organizing committees and FISA before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodations, and working logistics are provided for Classifiers; supervising Classifiers to ensure that Classification Regulations are applied appropriately during a specific Competition; and supervising Classifiers and trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels.

- 2.1.3 FISA Classifiers must be qualified in one or more of the following disciplines:
Medical Classifier: A qualified medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist.

Technical Classifier: A person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, or similarly qualified person.

2.2 Classifiers – Levels and Duties

FISA categorizes its Classifiers (all of whom must comply with the IPC and FISA Classifier Code of Conduct at all times) as follows:

- 2.2.1 Trainee – An individual who is in the process of formal training by FISA, but has not met the requirements as a FISA Level One International Classifier. A Trainee Classifier shall not serve on an International Classification Panel but may continue to practice their skills at a national level. They may only issue a sport class status of New.
- 2.2.2 Level 1 International Classifier - An individual who has successfully completed a FISA Advanced International Classification Workshop, has demonstrated their ability to classify rowers, has shown competence in performing all of the classification tasks and has met the requirements of the FISA Para-Rowing Commission to be appointed as a FISA International Classifier. A FISA International Classifier may be appointed to serve on a FISA Classification Panel at a FISA Recognized Competition and is qualified to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of a rower wishing to compete at a FISA or IPC event. A FISA Level One Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel. A FISA Level One Classifier may also assist the Para-Rowing Commission (at regattas) with monitoring compliance with the rules and regulations regarding equipment including but not limited to, straps, goggles, and pontoons.
- 2.2.3 Level 2 International Classifier – An individual appointed as such by the FISA Executive Committee, in consultation with the Head of Classification, who has completed the requirements necessary to serve on a FISA International Classification Panel and who has a high level of experience and has demonstrated adept judgment on classifications as an International Classifier and when relevant, arbiter of protests. A Level Two International Classifier may be appointed to act as Chief Classifier at an international regatta and may conduct International Classification Workshops to identify, train, and evaluate candidates to serve as International Classifiers in cooperation with the FISA Para-Rowing Commission. A FISA Level Two Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel. A FISA Level Two Classifier may also assist the Para-Rowing Commission (at regattas) with monitoring compliance with the rules and regulations regarding equipment including but not limited to, straps, goggles, and pontoons.

3. Classification Panels and Classification

3.1 Classification Panels

- 3.1.1 A Classification Panel is comprised of two Classifiers empowered by the Rules of the Sport of Para-Rowing to evaluate Athletes and allocate Sport Classes.

- 3.1.2 The Head of Classification and FISA Para-Rowing Commission shall appoint Classification Panels for a particular Competition (including FISA recognized international competitions).
- 3.1.3 A Classification Panel for rowers without visual impairments must include a suitably accredited and qualified Medical Classifier and Technical Classifier. For rowers with visual impairments, a Classification Panel must include 2 suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).
- 3.1.4 Members of a Classification Panel shall not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with Classification and the Para-Rowing Commission.
- 3.1.5 Members of Classification Panels shall have no significant relationship with any Athlete (or any member of Athlete Support Personnel) that might create any real or apparent Conflict of Interest.
- 3.1.6 Members of a Classification Panel must disclose any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.

3.2 National Classification

- 3.2.1 All Athletes who wish to participate in FISA Competitions should, where possible, be first classified in their country. National level classification may comprise panels with Trainee Classifiers or a combination of Trainee and International Classifiers in accordance with these Regulations.

3.3 International Classification

- 3.3.1 "International Classification" refers to the process of Athlete Evaluation (as explained in these Classification Regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, a FISA Recognized Competition.
- 3.3.2 An Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in a FISA Recognized Competition, except in an exceptional circumstance (refer 3.3.5 below).
- 3.3.3 International Classification must be conducted by an "International Classification Panel". An International Classification Panel shall normally be comprised of one Medical Classifier and one Technical Classifier, both of whom have been duly certified by FISA.
- 3.3.4 For rowers with visual impairments, a Classification Panel must include two suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).
- 3.3.5 If the circumstances of a Competition so require, the Head of Classification (or Chief Classifier) may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one qualified International Classifier in special cases, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances. In such instances Review status shall be issued. In this case the athlete will be classified at or prior to the next competition he or she wishes to enter.
- 3.3.6 An International Classification Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

3.4 Preparing Classification Panels for Competition

- 3.4.1 The Head of Classification should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels shall, where possible, be appointed two months before a Competition.
- 3.4.2 The Head of Classification may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The Head of Classification and the Chief Classifier shall identify which Athletes will require Athlete Evaluation at a Competition.
- 3.4.3 The Chief Classifier shall provide the Local Organizing Committee for the Competition with an Athlete Evaluation schedule prior to the Competition, and to the National Federations and/or teams on or before their arrival at the Competition.
- 3.4.4 In respect of Competitions where physical and/or visual impaired Athletes are to compete, the Chief Classifier must ensure that Classification Panels are certified to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of physical and/or visual impaired Athletes.

4. Classification: Athlete Evaluation

4.1 Athlete Evaluation

- 4.1.1 "Athlete Evaluation" is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 4.1.2 Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English.
- 4.1.3 The Athlete and the relevant National Federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.4 The Athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the FISA Para-Rowing Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.5 Athletes must attend Athlete Evaluation in the attire and with all necessary sports equipment, including cushions, straps, and any additional equipment that each particular rower uses specific to them. Athlete must provide a recognized form of identification, such as a passport, ID card, or Competition Accreditation.
- 4.1.6 If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain, which limits or prohibits full effort, the Classification Panel may decide that Athlete Evaluation will not take place. The Classification Panel may, in its sole discretion, agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances. However, ultimately if the Athlete does not have a Sports Class and a Sports Class Status then they will not be Eligible to Compete at the Competition.
- 4.1.7 The Athlete must disclose details of any medication routinely used by the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The Classification Panel may in its sole discretion decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it considers that the use of such medication will affect its ability to conduct Physical and Medical Assessment. The Classification Panel may agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.8 An Athlete shall attend Athlete Evaluation with all relevant medical documentation. The purpose of this documentation is to permit the Classification Panel to verify that an Athlete's impairments are the direct result of a health condition which has resulted in a **permanent and verifiable activity limitation**. Medical documentation includes but is not limited to medical history or results from any relevant investigations (MRI, CT scan, EMG, EEG, nerve conduction, visual tests), Athlete's date of birth, and date

of injury.

- 4.1.9 The documentation must be in English, and be dated, signed by an appropriate medical authority and provide contact details for the signing medical authorities (e.g. on letterhead).
- 4.1.10 Where the medical documentation is not written in English, an official translation shall be provided. Any translation must be accompanied by an official certification that it is a true and correct translation.
- 4.1.11 If the Classification Panel deems that such documentation is necessary and it is not available, the Athlete Evaluation may be deferred until the documentation is available and a Sport Class will not be assigned. If the documentation does not provide evidence beyond reasonable doubt that the impairments result from a permanent and verifiable health condition, the Athlete will be issued a Sport Class of Not Eligible.
- 4.1.12 One person may accompany Athletes during Athlete Evaluation. This person should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sporting ability. An interpreter may also accompany the Athlete if the Athlete's primary language is not English. The accompanying people may not influence the Athlete Evaluation in any way.
- 4.1.13 Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.

4.2 Athlete Evaluation Process

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass one or more of the following:

- 4.2.1 **Physical Assessment**
The Classification Panel shall conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with the Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes within FISA Para-Rowing, so as to establish that the Athlete exhibits a permanent Impairment that qualifies the Athlete for participation in the Sport.
- 4.2.2 **Technical Assessment**
The Classification Panel shall conduct a technical assessment of the Athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of rowing. Technical assessment is primarily performed on an Ergometer, but may also be performed on water when deemed necessary.
- 4.2.3 **Specified Means of Physical and Technical Assessment**
These Regulations may specify certain means of conducting Physical and Technical Assessment. These means are explained in the FISA Classifiers Manual and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by the FISA Para-Rowing Commission.
- 4.2.4 **Observation Assessment**
 - 4.2.4.1 The Classification Panel may conduct an Observation Assessment, which shall involve observing an Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the Sport.
 - 4.2.4.2 Observation Assessment shall only take place if a Classification Panel can not complete the Athlete Evaluation without observing the Athlete in Competition or on Water (for example, in situations where the Athlete is borderline as between Sport Classes).

5. Sport Class and Sport Class Status

5.1 Sport Class

- 5.1.1 A sport class in rowing allows the grouping of athletes according to the way in which each athlete's impairment limits his/her functional ability for rowing. Through

the rowing classification process, it is determined which athletes are eligible to compete in rowing and how they are grouped together for competition.

- 5.1.2 These Regulations provide for a range of Sport Classes, as explained in the Appendices to these Regulations. The means by which a Sport Class is allocated is explained in the FISA Para-Rowing Classifiers Manual, which may be amended and/or updated from time to time by the FISA Adaptive Commission with approval from FISA Council. A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation. Refer to Appendix 1 for specific information on Sport Classes.

5.2 Sport Class Status

- 5.2.1 A Sport Class Status will be allocated to an Athlete following allocation of a Sport Class.

- 5.2.2 The following designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status

5.2.2.1 Sport Class Status New (N):

Sport Class Status New (N) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- Has not been evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel, but who has been classified by two Trainee Classifiers (one Medical and one Technical), or one Trainee and one International Classifier, within their own federation or region.
- N Status Athletes must complete an Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an International or FISA Recognized Event.

5.2.2.2 Sport Class Status Review (R)

Sport Class Status Review (R) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- Has been previously evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel but is subject to re-evaluation. The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during an event. R Status Athletes include, but are not limited, to Athletes who have fluctuating and/or progressive Impairments, or, because of their age or date of injury, have impairments that may not have stabilized.
- Has been evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel with at least one of the Classifiers from the classifiers own country.

If a FISA International Classification Panel assigns an Athlete with a Sport Class with a Sport Class Status Review, it shall set a date that shall be referred to as the "Review Date". Prior to the Review Date, the Athlete:

- Shall not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation;
- Shall retain the Sport Class assigned to that Athlete, with Sport Class Status Review, and be permitted to compete accordingly;
- May, at the Athlete's request, attend Athlete Evaluation.

A Review Date may only be set by a FISA International Classification Panel.

5.2.2.3 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- Has been evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel and the International Classification Panel have determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change. An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete Athlete Evaluation at Events recognized by FISA. An Athlete with a C Sport Class must, however, undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made under Exceptional Circumstances (Refer 7.4 below);
- Has been previously evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel and allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (Refer 5.2 below), and wishes to undertake Athlete Evaluation. Such request needs to be accompanied by an

application for Medical Review with clearly documented change of medical condition since the previous assessment.

5.2.3 Restrictions on Allocating Confirmed Status

An Athlete cannot be assigned Sport Class Status Confirmed if the Classification Panel that designated the relevant Sport Class consisted of one Classifier only.

5.2.4 Athlete Application to Change Sport Class ("Medical Review")

This Section applies to an Athlete with:

- Sport Class Status Confirmed, or
- Sport Class Status Review with a Review Date set;

who wishes to use the "Medical Review" process to have his or her Sport Class Status reviewed.

An Athlete to whom this Section applies believes that, as a result of a medical intervention (for example, surgery or other treatment), or there is a progression of his or her disability, that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the Sport Profile for that Athlete's Sport Class, may request that the Head of Classification designate that either:

- The Athlete's Sport Class Status shall be amended to Review Status, or;
- The Athlete's Review Date is amended.

Any such request must be made in accordance with the "Medical Review" process guidelines as determined by FISA.

5.3 Sport Class: Ineligible to Compete

5.3.1 If an Athlete does not meet the requirements to be assigned a Sport Class for Para-Rowing, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete and assigned a Sport Class of Not Eligible.

5.3.2 If a FISA International Classification Panel allocates an Athlete a Sport Class of Not Eligible at an Event, the Athlete shall undergo Athlete Evaluation by a second Classification Panel either at that Event or as soon as practical thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition, and will have no further right to Protest.

5.3.3 An Athlete who has been assigned a Sport Class of NE may only undertake further Athlete Evaluation with the express permission of the Head of Classification. This permission may be granted if:

5.3.3.1 The Head of Classification is provided with information which demonstrates that there has been a significant change in the Athlete's circumstances (for example, medical factors) since the Athlete's most recent evaluation; and/or

5.3.3.2 Sport Class allocation criteria have changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation, and the Head of Classification believes that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation; and/or

5.3.3.3 The Head of Classification is provided with any other information that demonstrates that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation.

5.3.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the restrictions placed on an Athlete detailed above shall apply with the Sport of Para-Rowing only.

5.4 Allocation of Sport Class to Athletes

5.4.1 Following completion of the Physical and Technical Assessment the Athlete will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

5.4.2 An Athlete will be permitted to compete at an International Event following the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status of either Review or Confirmed.

5.4.3 The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation will be notified to the National team representative for the Athlete and a copy of the classification documentation will be provided before the end

of competition. The Classification Master List will also be updated on www.worldrowing.com as soon as possible following the event.

6. Failure to Comply with Classification Requirements

6.1 Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation

- 6.1.1 If an Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Event.
- 6.1.2 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend Athlete Evaluation; an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend the evaluation.
- 6.1.3 Failure to attend Athlete Evaluation includes not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

6.2 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation

- 6.2.1 An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation.
- 6.2.2 If the Athlete fails to cooperate during the Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the Event.
- 6.2.3 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to cooperate during the evaluation, then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and cooperate.
- 6.2.4 Any Athlete found to have been non cooperative during an evaluation shall not be permitted to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation for a minimum of twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to cooperate.

6.3 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 6.3.1 An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Event.

In addition:

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;
 - The Head of Classification will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from the FISA Para-Rowing master list and the FISA web list;
 - The National Federation will be informed of the decision by the Chief Classifier at the event, and will also be informed in writing by the Head of Classification within 4 weeks of the event.
- 6.3.2 An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from FISA events.

Intentional Misrepresentation After Evaluation

- 6.3.3 This Clause applies to an Athlete who:
 - Has been designated with a Review or Confirmed Sport Class, and
 - After the designation of the Review or Confirmed Sport Class, is subject to any form of “medical intervention” (such as surgery, a pharmacological intervention, or other corrective treatment).
- 6.3.4 If such an Athlete knows (or should know) that the effect of the medical intervention is that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the Sport Profile for the Athlete’s Sport Class, that Athlete must provide details of the

medical intervention to the Head of Classification, in accordance with the Medical Review Process as determined by FISA.

- 6.3.5 If the Athlete fails to provide details of the medical intervention to the Head of Classification, the Athlete will be deemed to have intentionally misrepresented his/her skill and/or abilities if:
- The Athlete's Sport Class is subsequently changed as a result (in total or in part) of the medical intervention, and
 - The International Classification Panel responsible for changing the Athlete's Sport Class believes that the Athlete either knew, or should have known, that the effect of the medical intervention was that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitation no longer match the Sport Profile for the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 6.3.6 In such circumstances, at a minimum, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Event.

6.4 Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel

- 6.4.1 FISA shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way
- 6.4.2 Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.
- 6.4.3 These sanctions shall apply to Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to provide information relating to medical intervention, in accordance with the Medical Review Process.
- 6.4.4 In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the Athlete.

6.5 Publication of Penalties

FISA will disclose on its website details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel found in breach of these Regulations and Bye-Laws.

7. Protests and Appeals

7.1 Protests

- 7.1.1 The term "Protest" refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.1.2 A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 7.1.3 FISA may only resolve a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by FISA. A Protest received regarding a rower with a visual impairment will be referred to the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) to resolve.
- 7.1.4 Protests shall be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, Competition schedules and results.

7.2 Who May Submit a Protest

- 7.2.1 Any National Federation or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class may protest their own athletes. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete's Sport Class may change, and shall be designated:
- Confirmed (C) Status; or
 - Review (R) Status; or
 - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)

7.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 7.3.1 Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorized to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager) and/or the Chief Classifier.
- 7.3.2 The Chief Classifier shall be the person authorized to receive Protests on behalf of FISA regarding classification issues.
- 7.3.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested by the Athlete's National Federation within two (2) hours of the Classification Panel's decision regarding the Sport Class being published.
- 7.3.4 Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest form that is available on the FISA website. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:
- The name, and national federation of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
 - Details of the decision being protested;
 - The reason for the Protest, including why you feel the rower was placed in the incorrect sport class;
 - Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest; the signature of the National Federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
 - A fee of one hundred (100) Euros (unless there is a Protest by the Chief Classifier).
- 7.3.5 Upon receipt of the completed Protest form, supporting documents, and fee, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that if there is no valid reason for a Protest, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall decline the protest and notify all relevant parties. FISA will retain the Protest fee.
- 7.3.6 If the Protest is declined, the Chief Classifier shall provide a verbal explanation to the National Federation as soon as is possible, and a written explanation as soon as is practical.
- 7.3.7 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct the Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.3.8 The Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 7.3.9 The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.10 All documentation submitted with the Protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.11 The Protest Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class (including from the initial Classification Panel whose decision is the subject of the Protest).
- 7.3.12 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these Regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. FISA will retain the Protest fee unless the Protest is upheld.
- 7.3.13 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.

7.4 Protests in Exceptional Circumstances

- 7.4.1 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances in respect of any Athlete at any time during or prior to a Competition.

Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete;

- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
 - An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability.
- 7.4.2 The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:
- The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
 - The processes and procedures referred to in Regulation 7.3 above (where relevant) will apply to Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.

7.5 Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance with Protest Rules

- 7.5.1 A National Federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.

7.6 Appeals

- 7.6.1 The term: "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 7.6.2 Appeals must be submitted in written form to the FISA Executive Committee on the same day as the decision being appealed. A decision will be given before the next round of the event being appealed.
- 7.6.3 The decisions of the Executive Committee under this rule are final.

8. Ad Hoc Rules for Paralympic Games and Major Events

These Classification Regulations may be amended, supplemented, or superseded by the Classification Guide for a Paralympic Games. The Classification Guide for a Paralympic Games shall detail the timeframes within which the Classification Guide will take precedence over these Regulations.

Appendix One to FISA Classification Regulations and Bye-laws

Qualifying Disabilities:

Only an athlete having impairment with a minimum disability that leads to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation shall be eligible to compete in Para-Rowing.

Sport Classes and Eligibility Requirements for each Sport Class

A. LTA (Includes LTA-PD, LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3)

Rowers with a verifiable and permanent disability who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for rowing, and who can utilise the sliding seat to propel the boat will be assigned to the LTA class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel.

Eligible LTA rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputee.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CPISRA).
- Visual Impairment: 10% of vision in best eye with best correction (from visual acuity above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or a visual field of more than 5% and less than 20%)

LTA class rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following disability groups:

(1) LTA-PD Physical Disability

The minimum physical disability is a full loss of three fingers on one hand, OR at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot, OR the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the *Functional Classification Test* as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities. **For the LTAMix2x boat class, rowers must have a

minimum disability of a loss of at least 20 points in one limb when assessed using the *Functional Classification Test* as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities.

(2) LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3 Visual impairment

Prior to any FISA event at which they wish to compete, a rower with visual impairment must have been classified by an ophthalmologist or the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) in one of the B3 (LTA-B3), B2 (LTA-B2) or B1 (LTA-B1) classes. Refer to <http://www.ibsa.es>. The FISA forms must be completed with supporting documentation and submitted to FISA by the closing date for entries for the event at which the rower wishes to compete (refer to the Vision Qualification Form). Prior to competing at the World Rowing Championships, any Paralympic Qualification Regatta, or the Paralympic Games, all Visually Impaired rowers must undergo a classification by a VI Classification Panel. This may occur prior to or at the event during the classification evaluation period.

B. TA

Rowers who have functional use of the trunk and who are not able to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function or mobility of the lower limbs will be assigned to the TA class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel.

Eligible TA rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly impaired quadriceps, or
- Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or
- Combination of the above such as one leg with around knee amputation and one leg with significant quadriceps impairment; or
- Classification by the international sports federation for rowers with cerebral palsy (CPISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

C. AS

Rowers who have minimal or no trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only) will be assigned to the AS class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel. An AS class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders. These athletes will likely also have poor sitting balance.

Eligible rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA); or
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10

D. NE (Not Eligible)

This sport class is issued to rowers who have undergone the FISA Classification Process and have not met the minimum disability to be eligible to compete as an adaptive rower.

Rowing Outside of Assigned Sport Class:

Rowers may compete in a more functional sport class than their assigned sport class, but not a less functional sport class. For example, a rower classified as TA may compete in LTA events, but may not compete in AS events.