

IFDS Medical Committee – Jürgen Schwittai

IFDS Functional Classification System Manual 2009 (FCS 2009)

The FCS 2009 document is finished as a draft, except for Part D – Handbook - and the Appendices, which have to be worked over for the final version. The formatting and numbering of the final version may also be changed.

Summary of Changes to the Functional Classification System Rules

The document is in five parts:

Part A is mainly of general interest to everyone but specifically for sailors.

Part B is for those intending to lodge, hear or manage a protest.

Part C is mainly administrative and of interest to classifiers.

Part D is intended for classifiers.

Part E contains forms pertaining to classification and procedural guides.

In order to compete in the Paralympics in future, IFDS had to sign the International Paralympic Committee Classification Code (IPCCC) at the Start of the 2008 Paralympic Games.

IFDS must also implement the Code by the start of the 2010 Paralympic Games, Whistler, Canada.

IPCCC weblink:

http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/Classification/Code/

This means a considerable amount of information must be documented in our rules in order to comply with the IPCCC. Consequently the FCS looks quite different from the previous one, but basically contains the same information and rules, with only a few changes that will be listed separately.

Some key concepts will be listed here, their importance is emphasized.

The IPCCC contains IPC International Standards (IPCCCIS) on Athlete Evaluation, Protests and Appeals and on Classifier Training and Certification. These IPCCCIS are mostly mandatory or strongly recommended for all International Sports Federations, RNAs and major international competitions (IFDS level 1 & level 2 competition), not just the Paralympics.

If you are not sure of the meaning of a word or phrase, look and see if it is in the Glossary that is included in the IPCCC.

More Detailed Comments:

Part A1

Eligibility to compete. The IPC rules are shown, which we must use.

Part A1.3.4

This rule for sailors found ineligible to compete is mandatory under IPC rules.

Part A1.3.5

Is a clarification of below knee amputation definitions.

Part A2

The concept of “First Appearance” is introduced. This relates to protests and is detailed in Part B6.2.3.

Part A2.2

The types of Classification Status have been changed from T, N, PRS, PPS to comply with IPC and are described in 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. Status T has been eliminated and Class Status R is used instead. The criteria for Status R have been broadened. The criteria for Status C (the old PPS) gives the C sailor protection from classification protest by anybody except the Chief Classifier at an event. Status C sailors do not need to be reclassified in a new quadrennium unless there has been a significant change in the classification system. In that case, notification will be sent to RNAs and posted in the IFDS Bulletin. IFDS will have all C status sailors seen briefly in a new quadrennium, to ensure they are who they say they are, that they have not changed (e.g. had surgery) and a few may also be reclassified. A Classification administration fee of 50 Euros will be charged to a sailor on entry to their first IFDS competition each quadrennium to maintain the Classification Master List and to cover administrative costs of classification.

Part A2.3

The (online) Master List is important and will replace IFDS International Classification Passports.

Part A4

IFDS may require more medical documentation for first time classification. Visually Impaired sailors **MUST** bring up to date (within 6 months) documentation with them. 4.3 requires documentation, in English, for any rare and unusual disability.

Part A6.2

This limits the number of people that can attend evaluation with the sailor.

Part A6.3 and A6.4

Describe what may happen when sailors attend for evaluation and are ill or in pain to the extent that this may interfere with proper classification.

Part A6.5

Stresses the importance of the Classification Consent Form.

Part A7.1.2

Is designed to make it easier for sailors with benchmark disabilities to be classified by only one classifier, who then photographs them and sends the information to another classifier.

It is possible that IPC may not permit this.

Part A7.2

There is a change in emphasis on the method of scoring sailors whose major disability is limitation of joint movement or inco-ordination. These are measured but the scoring is mainly on the Functional Dock Test and the Sailing Test. This may result in some sailors needing to be reclassified.

9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

These are new and important, mandated by IPC code. These detail the penalties for failure to attend evaluation, non co-operation during evaluation, and intentional misrepresentation of skills and/or abilities. Penalties are detailed for the sailor, supporting staff and teams.

14

Paralympic Boat Classes: Specific Rules

see **14.2** Two-Person Keelboat (e.g. SKUD18)

For further regulations about who is allowed to helm and with what part of body the see Class Rules.

Part B

Classification Protests and Appeals

Part B1.1

Any protest not complying with IPC standards must be denied. Consequently there are various changes to the old protest rules to comply with this.

Part B1.2

A sailor may only be protested once. There is a conflict between this statement and other IPC rules and the IPC flowsheet for opportunities to protest. This is all being reconsidered by IPC, but at present an R status sailor may be protested more than once.

Part B3.3

Sailors with Classification Status Confirmed C cannot be protested except in exceptional circumstances and then only by the Chief Classifier. See 4. Our terminology has changed to comply with IPCCC. The “Chief Classifier” is only appointed for an event. The administrative person in charge of all Classification for the quadrennium (who used to be called Chief Classifier), is now called the “Head of Classification”.

Part B5.1.4.1 and B5.2.1.(i)

Protest documentation and information must be complete or the protest will be dismissed.

Part B6.2

In competition protest time limits. These have changed, particularly the need to limit protesting another sailor’s classification to the end of the “First Appearance”. This significantly reduces the time available to protest another sailor and means that anyone doubtful about another sailor’s classification needs to watch them carefully, in the practice race and/or the first day’s racing.

Part B7

The protest fee remains at 100 € (Euros) and is refundable if the protest is upheld.

Part B8.1.4

There is a limit to the number of people who may accompany a sailor during a protest evaluation.

Part B8.2.2

This is very important.

The decision of the protest panel is final and cannot be protested again.

Part B8.3

This is very important.

If racing has started and a classification protest decision means that a Single–Person sailor or the composition of a Two or Three–Person boat is no longer eligible to compete, then the Chief Classifier will lodge a protest with the jury to disqualify that boat.

Part B9 Appeals

If an Appeal is considered it is most important to read all of the Appeals section carefully. An appeal can be lodged, but only about the process of evaluation or protest. The sailor's actual Class cannot be changed by the appeal body but they have the power to insist that the evaluation or protest evaluation be repeated, correcting the procedural flaws. The fee for Appeal is €200 (Euros) and is non-refundable.

Part B forms

The forms relating to protests are to be found in Part E.

Part C

This Part describes the various types of classifiers, their training and certification, maintenance of certification, various administrative procedures and duties. The composition of Classification Panels is described.

Part C4

This is new and is a Classifier Code of Conduct, which must be signed by the classifier. This gives assurance to the sailors and all others taking part in an event, that classifiers will behave in a reasonable manner.

Part E Consent Form

The wording of the consent form has been expanded to conform with IPC requirements.

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