

Para Nordic Classification Policy

Policy
2024





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Preamble

Classification of athletes into defined Sport Classes is an integral part of sport for 'Athletes with a Disability' within the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) system. The aim of a classification system is to ensure an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and that athletes compete equitably to provide fair competition. According to the IPC the purpose of classification... "is to minimize the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of competition, so that Athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to the best effect."

The Nordiq Canada classification system will follow the [IPC Classification Code](#) while providing flexibility for the unique requirements of Canada's Para nordic (PN) classification system.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to provide direction on the management of the Nordiq Canada Para nordic (PN) classification system. This policy, in conjunction with the IPC Classification Code and FIS Para nordic Classification Rules and Regulations will provide the framework within which the classification process will take place.

Authority

This operational policy is published under the authority of the CEO in consultation with the Sport Development Director (SDD) and Para nordic staff.

Definition of Classifiers

Nordiq Canada 'Classifiers' under the terms of this policy can only classify athletes with physical impairments (PI) in the LW classes (LW 2-9 standing and LW 10-12 sitting). The term 'Classifier' refers only to PI Classifiers in this policy.

Athletes with a visual impairment (VI) in classes B1-3 are classified by a separate process either through an IPC VI Classification Panel or by recommendation of an IPC certified VI classifier

based upon their assessment of a completed IPC VI medical diagnostics form. The terms of this policy include VI athletes but not VI classifiers.

Type of Classifiers

Nordiq Canada will maintain a classification system which includes the following:

- a) FIS Certified Medical Classifiers
- b) FIS Certified Technical Classifiers
- c) Head Classifier – One of the FIS certified classifiers, either medical or technical, will be appointed as the Head of National Classification by the Nordiq Canada Sport Development Director in consultation with Para nordic staff and the Para nordic Working Group;
- d) National Classification Consultants as appropriate and available.

Medical/technical classifiers will classify athletes nationally and advise the Sport Development Director and the High Performance Director of classification issues.

Classifiers will be chosen and trained based upon their interest, experience, professional qualifications and ability to meet FIS requirements for certification. Canadian classifiers will also be chosen considering geographic and Nordiq Canada Division representation.

National Classification Consultants are non-FIS certified classification experts who will advise the Nordiq Canada classification system. Consultants may be part of National Classification Panels but they are not FIS certified classifiers and cannot classify athletes.

Current FIS Certified Classifiers:

- Jennifer Nieson (O.T.), Sault Ste. Marie ON - Medical Classifier FIS August 2024
- Julie Sanders (P.T.), St Agapit QC – Medical Classifier IPC Certified January 2013
- Shane Munro (P.T), Canmore AB – Medical Classifier
- Catherine Vipond (P.T.) Canmore AB – Medical Classifier



Training and Certification of Classifiers

All Canadian classifiers (medical and technical) must be FIS certified. Canadian classifiers will be trained and certified through the FIS process of attending a FIS Classification Seminar and receiving related training and experience on FIS classification panels.

Individuals may apply to Nordiq Canada for training support and certification. Support is based on budget and priorities for the Para nordic program. In return, the classifiers are expected to remain active in the Canadian Para nordic classification system for at least three years, taking part in at least one National Classification Panel per year or as required.

It is also expected that Canadian classifiers be part of the FIS classification system and take part in FIS classification panels and other professional development opportunities offered by FIS. FIS classification panel assignments will be the responsibility of FIS to organize and fund.

Term of Canadian Classifiers

Canadian classifiers certified through FIS and following the [FIS Classification Rules and Regulations \(R&R\)](#) for professional development and re-certification, are eligible to continue as Canadian national classifiers with no limit to the length of term.

The Nordiq Canada Sport Development Director in consultation with the HPD and Para nordic staff, may end the term of a classifier if the classifier is not actively involved in the Canadian classification system, and/or is deemed to be not following the terms of this policy or other relevant Nordiq Canada policies.

Classifier Compensation

Following the FIS Classification R&R, Canadian classifiers are considered volunteers who volunteer their time for reasons related to personal interest, commitment to the Paralympic movement and professional development. It is recognized that classifiers provide a valuable service to the Canadian Para nordic system and that classifiers are often professionals with full-



time jobs and commitments so some financial compensation to classifiers is necessary to support the Canadian classification system.

- a) Subject to pre-approval, Nordiq Canada will generally cover expenses (including travel, food, accommodation and other reasonable expenses allowed, pursuant to Nordiq Canada's Travel and Expense Policy, when a Certified Classifier or National Consultant is travelling to a National Classification Panel or other required meeting for classification purposes. Participants may apply in advance to Nordiq Canada for approval of such expenses.
- b) There will be no honorarium or other compensation for regular communication and consultation.

Canadian Classification System Adaptations

As stated in the preamble of this policy, the Canadian Para nordic classification system will follow the IPC Classification Code and FIS Classification R&R.

For specific Canadian Para nordic system and athlete development purposes Nordiq Canada will allow classification of athletes at the National level that falls outside the IPC Classification Code and FIS Classification R&R. Nordiq Canada will allow these athletes to compete in nationally sanctioned events including Provincial Cups, Canada Cups, Nordiq Cups, Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals and Canada Winter Games, based upon specific adaptations to the IPCNS classification R&R.

Commented [MOU1]: Update to our new name?

National classification adaptations and eligibility to compete for individual athletes will be determined on a "case-by-case" basis by the Canadian classifiers in consultation with the Nordiq Canada SDD, HPD, and PN staff.

The following are the current Canadian classification adaptation guidelines:

- a) Sitting athletes (LW10-12) who have a clear physical impairment as identified by medical diagnosis and assessment and who are unable to compete as standing athletes due to this impairment but are not classifiable under FIS classification R&R and are ineligible to

compete in FIS sanctioned events: these athletes will be classified as LW 13 with a competition factor of 100%.

- b) Standing athletes (LW 2-9) with a clear physical impairment, as identified by medical diagnosis and assessment, but who are not classifiable under FIS Classification R&R and are ineligible to compete in FIS sanctioned events: these athletes will be classified in their appropriate Sport Class as determined by Canadian classifiers with their competition percentages adjusted as appropriate to their disability and the situation.
- c) Visually impaired athletes (B1-3) who have a clear visual impairment, as identified by medical or ophthalmologist diagnosis and assessment, which affects their ability to compete as Olympic stream athletes but who are not classifiable under FIS classification R&R and are unable to compete in FIS sanctioned events: these athletes will be classified as B4 with a competition factor of 100%.
- d) Sitting athletes (LW10-12) with Cerebral Palsy, who are not classifiable under FIS classification R&R and are unable to compete in FIS sanctioned events will be classified as LW12 and given a competition factor of 94%. This competition factor will be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate based upon results analysis over time.

Athletes falling under these categories are included on the list of Canadian Classified Para nordic Athletes in section 10.0 of this document with the adaptation indicated.

Athletes who cannot be FIS classified under the FIS classification R&R are not eligible for Nordiq Canada Para nordic national ski team selection or Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funding.

These Canadian adaptations will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Canadian Classified athletes

Nordiq Canada will maintain a list of Canadian Classified Para nordic athletes. The list will include all active and past athletes with their National Classification and IPC Classification as applicable. The list will be updated as new athletes become classified. This list will be posted on the Nordiq Canada website.

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National Classification Panel

The goal of the Canadian Para nordic classification system is to ensure all athletes who want to be nationally classified can be within a reasonable amount of time so they can compete in nationally sanctioned events.

Nordiq Canada's goal is to hold one National Classification Panel per year to classify athletes. Classification panels will normally be held at major events such as a Para nordic national development camp or a national championships.

Nordiq Canada affiliated organizations such as event organizers, clubs or Divisions may request a National Classification Panel. The organization will be responsible for all costs associated with the National Classification Panel.

To be given a 'confirmed' National Classification sport class and competition factor, an athlete must be evaluated at an official Nordiq Canada National Classification Panel. A Classification Panel will include at least one FIS certified medical classifier and at least one FIS certified technical classifier. Details on the process of classification can be found in the [FIS Classification R&R](#).

If an athlete is unable to attend a classification panel, they may be classified outside of an official classification panel and given a 'provisional' classification based upon observation by one national classifier (medical or technical) and/or review of medical records.

Athletes with a provisional classification will be allowed to compete in nationally sanctioned competition events. If their classification is later confirmed to be different, than the provisional sport class assigned their competition results may be adjusted to reflect the confirmed classification. The athlete must attend a National Classification Panel at their earliest opportunity to confirm their classification. An athlete cannot have a provisional classification indefinitely, and the athlete may become ineligible to compete without a confirmed classification.



FIS Classification Panel

Athletes may be classified at an approved FIS Classification Panel. In this case Nordiq Canada will accept the FIS classification and there will be no requirement for a national classification. All associated costs to attend a FIS classification panel will be the responsibility of the athlete.

Funding

Funding of the Nordiq Canada classification system under the terms of this policy is subject to Nordiq Canada approved budget and funding levels.

Review

Classification is dynamic with changes and updates occurring regularly within Canada and within FIS. Therefore, this policy will be updated as needed and appropriate at least annually.