INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## CONSULTATION PHASE 3

## JULY - OCTOBER 2023

### OPEN RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS ADDRESSING TARGETED TOPICS

# WELCOME



This presentation includes slides used during the third phase of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code review consultation (July to October 2023).

It is shared with the aim of facilitating further understanding and dialogue about the proposed changes to the IPC Classification Code, as part of this review process.

This resource is prepared for IPC Members, Recognised International Federations, National Federations, Athletes, Classifiers and wider stakeholders.

It is envisaged to be used to disseminate the information on the Code review and facilitate dialogue to capture stakeholder feedback.

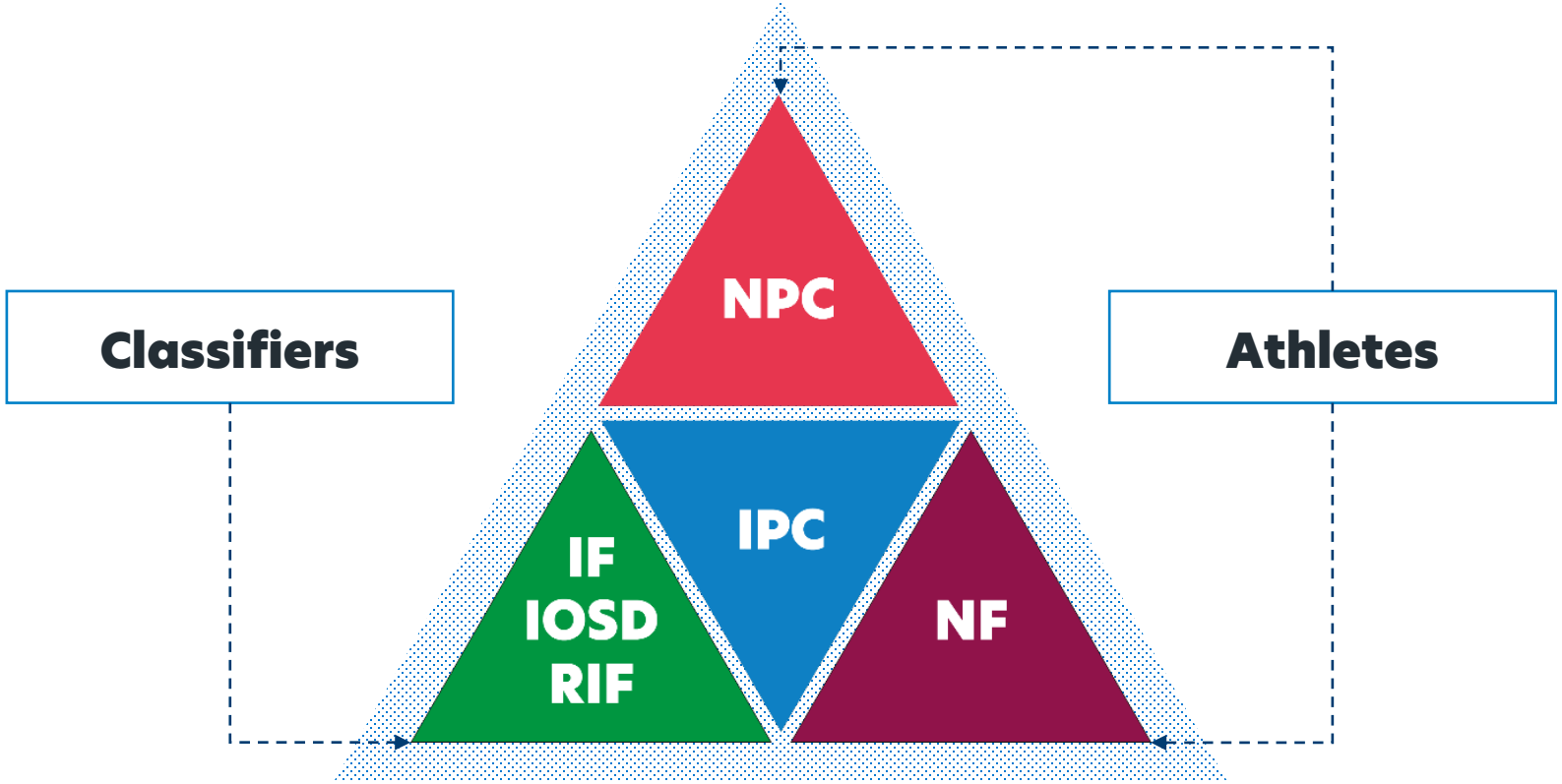
All documents regarding the review of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code are available on the IPC Classification Code review webpage.

For any questions, please contact codereview@paralympic.org.

# CONTENTS

# WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE CODE REVIEW PROCESS?

- IPC Members (National Paralympic Committees, Regional Organisations, International Federations, International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled) and Recognised International Federations
- National Federations
- Athletes and Athletes Support Staff
- IF Heads of Classification and Classifiers
- Code Review Team
- Classification Compliance and Oversight Committee
- IPC Management Team





*IPC Code Review Team, Bonn, February 2023*

Photo © OIS

# CLASSIFICATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

# INTRODUCTION
## CLASSIFICATION



- Classification in the Paralympic Movement determines who is eligible to compete in Para sport and aims to group Athletes into Sport Classes based on the impact of their Impairment on the fundamental activities performed in each sport.

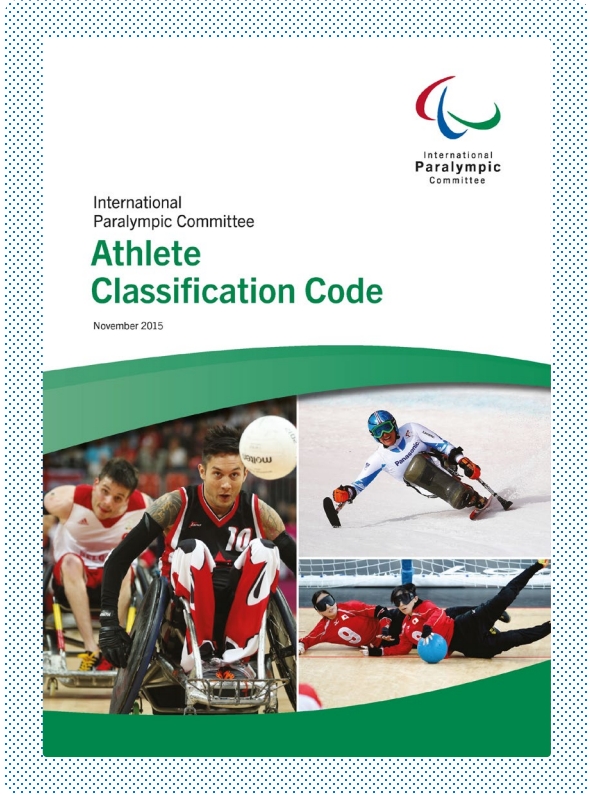
- Classification provides meaningful competition structure in Para sport.

- Classification evolved over time and nowadays aims to be sport-specific and evidence-informed.

- The Movement currently recognises 10 Eligible Impairments that serve as the basis of all Para sport Classification Systems.

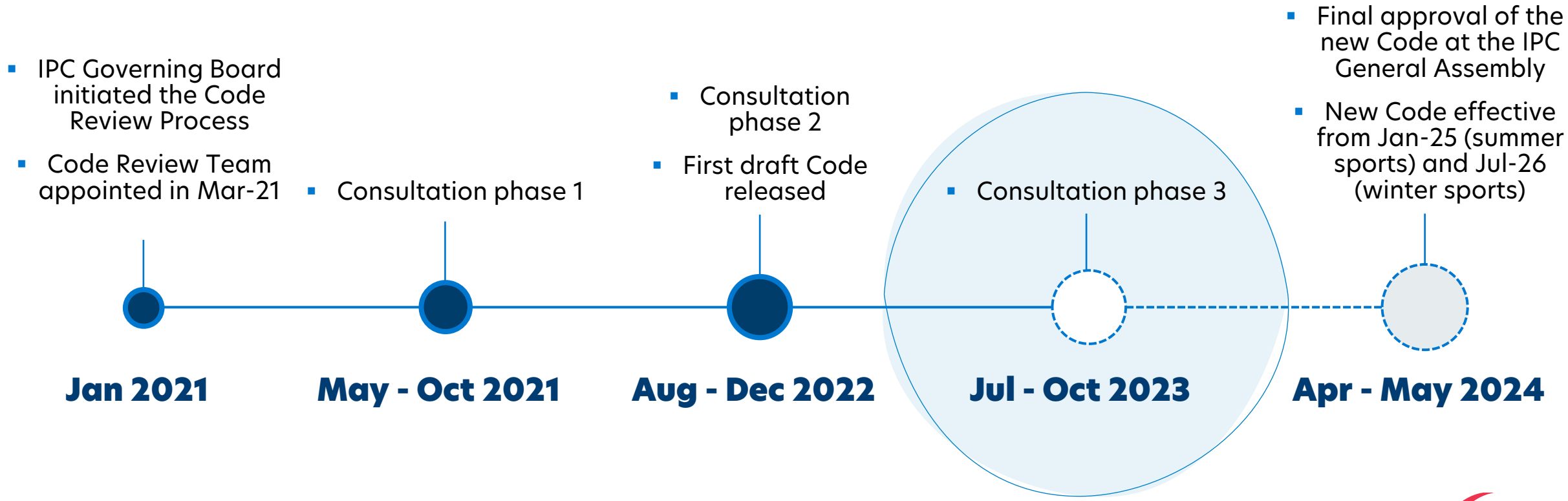
# INTRODUCTION
## CLASSIFICATION CODE

- Fundamental document upon which Classification in the Paralympic Movement must be based.
- Aims to uphold confidence in Classification and promote participation by a wide range of Athletes.
- Details policies and procedures common across all Para sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para sports.
- Intends to achieve harmonisation where standardisation is required and allow flexibility to cater for the needs of each sport.



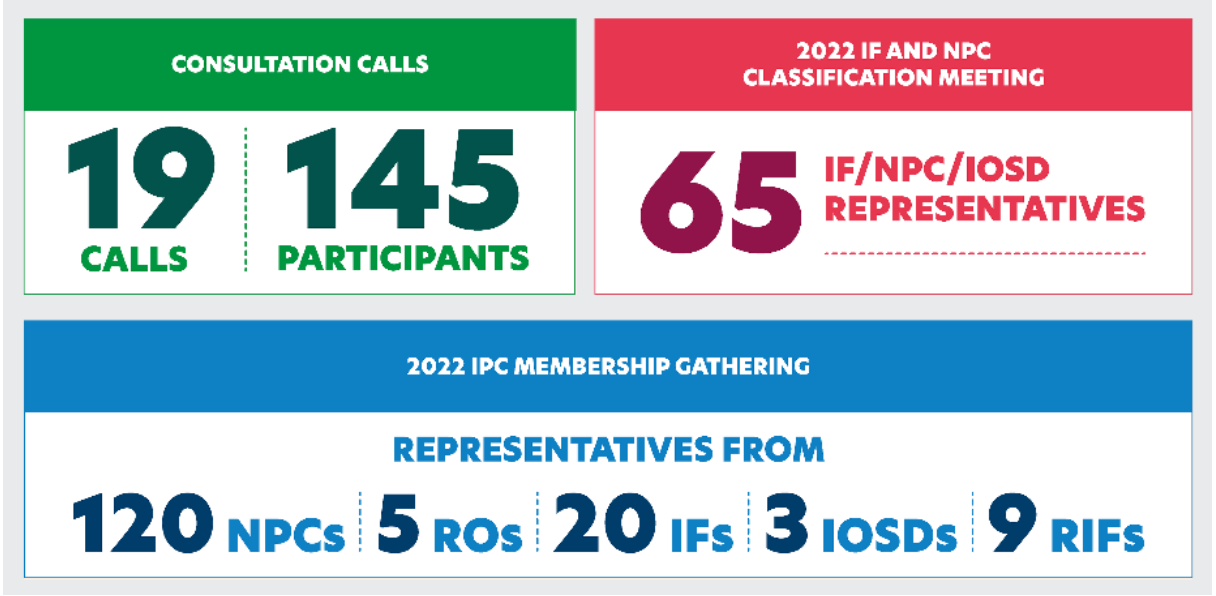

*2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code front cover*

# INTRODUCTION
## CODE REVIEW PROCESS



# INTRODUCTION
## CONSULTATION PHASE 2 OVERVIEW

- Discussion focused on 22 targeted topics
- Written feedback via survey and email received from 63 individuals
- Dialogue held with all IPC members and wider stakeholders including Athletes, Classifiers, National Federations over calls and in-person meetings



# INTRODUCTION
## CONSULTATION PHASE 2 OVERVIEW

- A Summary of Changes (SoC) is prepared to provide an overview of the main changes in both 1st and 2nd draft Code:
  - SoC - 1st draft
  - SoC - 2nd draft

- The 2nd draft Code and International Standards are available from the Classification Code Review webpage.

# INTRODUCTION
## CONSULTATION PHASE 3 OVERVIEW

### Main changes in the 2nd draft Code and International Standards:

- Purpose and definition of Classification clarified
- Changes to the scope of the Code
- Fundamental Principles and 4-Stage assessment process clarified
- Provisions surrounding Classification Panels strengthened
- Sport Classes and competition formats addressed
- Intentional Misrepresentation regulations moved to an International Standard
- Compliance, changes to classification systems and roles and responsibilities clarified

# INTRODUCTION

## CONSULTATION PHASE 3 OVERVIEW

**June 2023**

**Athletes Forum**

**Aug-Oct 2023**

**Membership/ stakeholder calls**

**Aug-Oct 2023**

**Individual Member consultation meetings**

**Oct 2023**

**IPC Conference**

**Oct 2023**

**Annual Classification Meeting**

**Oct 2023**

**Online feedback form**

# INTRODUCTION

## CONSULTATION PHASE 3 - APPROACH

### Consultation

**Approach**

Informative and open to discussion. All feedback and questions welcomed.

**Themes**

Relevant topics selected from the Summary of Changes.

**Relevance**

Tailored consultation opportunities for each stakeholder group.

**Dialogue**

Engagement encouraged throughout each call followed by a satisfaction survey.

# SELECTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## THE PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION AND LINK WITH IPC'S VISION

- Chapter introduced in the previous consultation phase.
- Definition of Classification is strengthened and now reads:

  *Classification is the cornerstone of Para sport. It involves:*
  - *the determination of which Athletes are eligible to compete in Relevant Competitions; and*
  - *the grouping of eligible Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific Para sport.*

- An important paragraph is added to capture how Classification within the Paralympic Movement operates on the basis of a 'selective' rather than 'performance based' system. The selected unit for Classification is an Athlete's impairment, and the extent to which the impairment impacts an Athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities in the specific sport in question.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## SCOPE OF THE CODE

### Current approach – 2015 Code

- All IPC Members and Recognised International Federations are bound by and must comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards.
- The Code is mandatory for International Competitions only. However, International Federations may in their classification rules extend the application of the Classification Code to national or lower-level competitions.
- This approach aims to ensure the same level of rigour and integrity across all Para sports within the Paralympic Movement.

### Challenges

- IFs have sports outside the PG programme and report its unrealistic to provide the same level of classification services.
- Some sports are developing and cannot meet the compliance requirements immediately.
- IFs organise international competitions at recreational level (with no impact on qualification towards major events) and face challenges in delivering to the same standard as for the qualifying events.
- RIFs are held to the same standard but are given less support in developing a Code compliant classification system.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SCOPE OF THE CODE - APPROACHES

### The Code is mandatory for sports/disciplines on the Paralympic Games programme

- Flexibility allowed to extend the application of the Code to sports/disciplines outside the PG programme.
- Timing for new sports / disciplines applying for inclusion on the PG programme to implement the Code?
- Integrity risks with different standards being applied within the Movement.

**Consultation outcome**

**Survey:** 40%
**Membership Gathering:** 28%

### Some provisions of the Code are mandatory more broadly than for sports/disciplines on the Games programme.

- Minimum level of standard achieved across Para sports.
- Flexibility allowed where required to facilitate grassroots development and improve access to classification.
- Integrity risks with different standards being applied within the Movement.

**Survey:** 30%
**Membership Gathering:** 9%

### The Code is mandatory for all Para sports and all IPC members, across all levels of International Competition (2015 Code scope)

- Ensures the same standard is applied across all Para sports.
- Easier access of information and understanding across sports – benefit for Athletes and NPCs.
- Unrealistic implementation requirements for sports/disciplines – could be managed through compliance tiers.

**Survey:** 30%
**Membership Gathering:** 63%

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## SCOPE OF THE CODE – IDENTIFIED APPROACH

- All IPC Members are bound by and must be in compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards.
- International Federations may extend the application of their Classification rules to sports not included on the Paralympic Games sport programme and/or to national or lower-level competitions, but it is not mandatory to do so.
- Recognised International Federations must undertake to be bound by and to comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards in relation to at least one sport that it administers.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## SCOPE OF THE CODE – IDENTIFIED APPROACH

- Compliance with the Code is envisaged to be set in tiers with input from the Classification Compliance and Oversight Committee:
  - IFs are held to the highest standard with a requirement to be compliant with the Code in full for their sport on the Paralympic Games sport programme;
  - RIFs are required to have at minimum one of its sport compliant to be recognised;
  - The purpose of Classification and its fundamental principles must be adhered to by all Members, however more relaxed provisions can be implemented for sports outside the Paralympic Games sport programme – to be determined what those are.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## SCOPE OF THE CODE – IDENTIFIED APPROACH

- With this approach, the IPC aims to ensure that:

1. The Paralympic Movement implements a harmonised approach to classification; and,

2. The highest possible standard of Classification is applied at the Paralympic Games and other Relevant Competitions (the mission), whilst at the same time not hampering the development of and/or participation within sports not on the Paralympic Games sport programme or at levels below Relevant Competitions (the vision).

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SCOPE OF THE CODE – IDENTIFIED APPROACH

- Definition of **Relevant Competition:**

  *Relevant Competition means:*

  *i. in respect of sports on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme:*

  *a. the Paralympic Games;*

  *b. any Competition that is part of the qualification pathway to participate in the Paralympic Games (as determined by the relevant International Federation); and*

  *c. any other event or Competition specified by the International Federation in its Classification rules; or*

  *ii. in respect of Classification Code-compliant sports administered by a RIF (pursuant to Article 4.6):*

  *a. the World Championships of that sport;*

  *b. any Competition that is part of the qualification pathway to participate in the World Championships of that sport (as determined by the RIF in question); and*

  *c. any other event or Competition specified by the RIF in its Classification rules.*

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SCOPE OF THE CODE – IDENTIFIED APPROACH

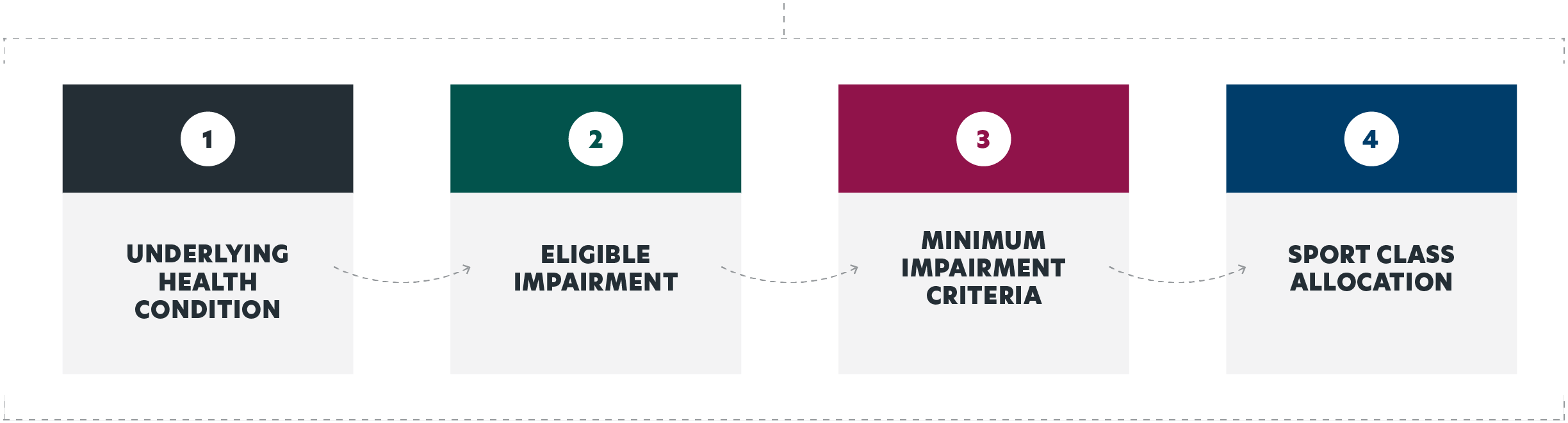
**TARGETED QUESTION**

For IPC Members and RIFs that govern sports outside the Paralympic Games programme, what elements of the Code should allow for more relaxed compliance provisions?

The Classification Code is envisaged to be applied at the level of Relevant Competitions. In other words, competitions that fall outside of the level of Relevant Competitions can include more relaxed provisions surrounding Classification. This definition has changed from the previous term International Competition. Please provide feedback on the term Relevant Competitions.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

### CLASSIFICATION PROCESS



# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

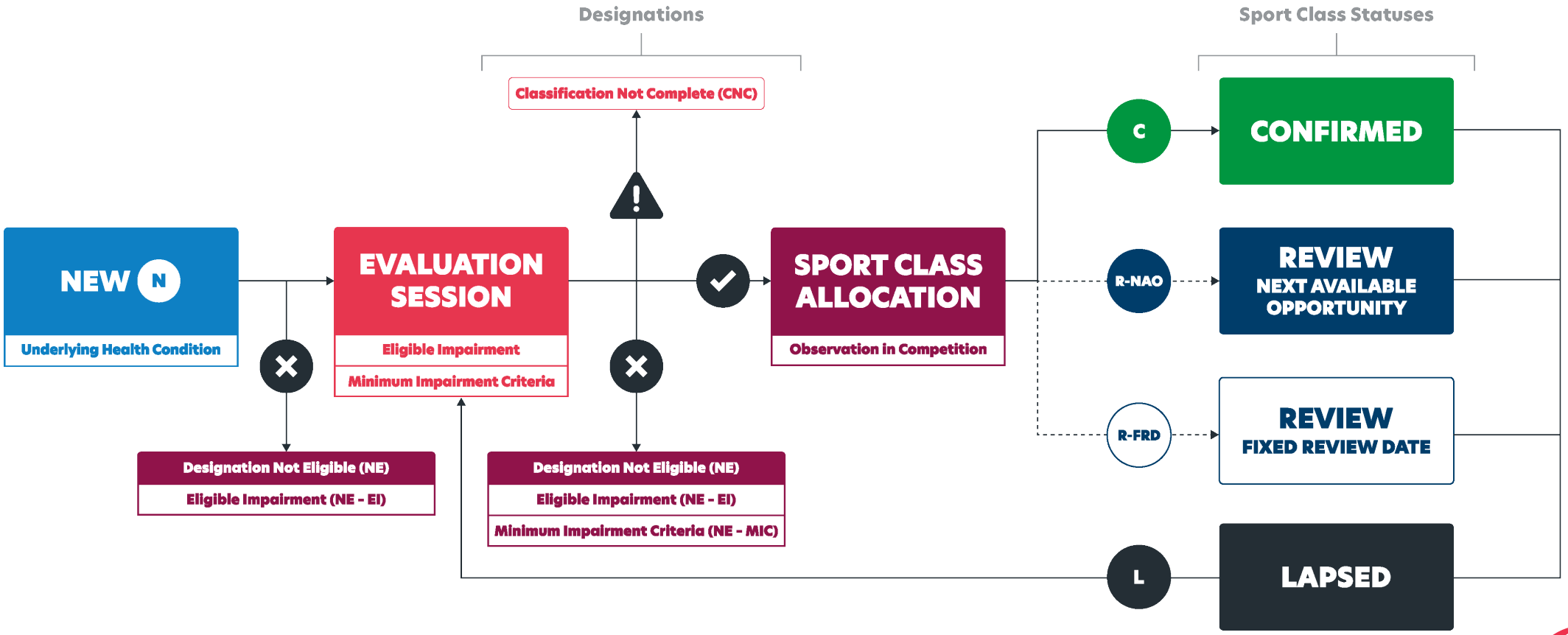
**TARGETED QUESTION**

During the final consultation phase, we welcome feedback on the fundamental principles and the four-staged approach.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## CLASSIFICATION PROCESS



# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## ASSESSMENT OF UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION AND ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT

### Underlying Health Condition Assessment

- The UHC Assessor must verify that the Athlete has a medically/clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition based on the information/evidence provided to it by the Athlete's National Federation.

### Eligible Impairment Assessment

- An Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) must lead to an Eligible Impairment that is catered for by the sport.
- The Classification Panel must conduct the Eligible Impairment Assessment in person, except in respect of Intellectual Impairments (where the Eligible Impairment Assessment may be conducted based on an evaluation of the evidence/information provided under Stage 1).

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

- IMPAIRED MUSCLE POWER
- IMPAIRED PASSIVE RANGE OF MOVEMENT
- LIMB DEFICIENCY AND/OR LIMB LENGTH DIFFERENCE
  - LIMB DEFICIENCY (CONGENITAL OR TRAUMA)
  - LEG LENGTH DIFFERENCE
  - ARM LENGTH DIFFERENCE
- SHORT STATURE
- COORDINATION IMPAIRMENTS
  - HYPERTONIA/ SPASTICITY
  - MOTOR ATAXIA
  - DYSKINESIA (ATHETOSIS, DYSTONIA, CHOREA)
- VISION IMPAIRMENT
- INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS - DEFINITIONS

## Hypertonia/Spasticity

Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an increase in muscle tension with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

### Alternative wording:

Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an abnormal pattern of posture and pathological reflexes causing an increase in muscle tension, with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS - DEFINITIONS

### Motor Ataxia

Athletes with Motor Ataxia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

**Alternative wording:**

Athletes with Motor Ataxia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system and loss of orderly muscular coordination, resulting in limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS - DEFINITIONS

### Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea )

Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.

**Alternative wording:**

Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary, uncontrolled, recurring and occasionally stereotyped movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS - DEFINITIONS

### Vision Impairment

Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or visual cortex of the brain resulting in reduced or no vision that cannot be fully compensated through equipment or surgery or other intervention. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules whether a Vision Impairment must be present in one or both eyes.

**Alternative wording:**

Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the structure and/or physiology of the anterior and/or posterior segments of the eye, optic nerve or pathway, or visual cortex of the brain, resulting in reduced or no visual function, even when using the best possible refractive correction. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules whether a Vision Impairment must be present in one or both eyes.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA (MIC)

**Minimum Impairment Criteria means** the minimum level of impairment resulting from an Eligible Impairment required in order for an Athlete to be eligible to participate in a Para sport, as determined by the International Federation in its Classification rules.

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- Each IF must in their Classification rules define the **MIC** for each EI (and, in the case of Coordination Impairments and Limb Deficiency/Limb Length Difference, the **MIC** for all of the sub-types of that EI) catered for by the sport, which criteria must be based on and assessed using accurate and reliable methods.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA (MIC)

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- **MIC** must be determined solely based on an evaluation of the Athlete's EI (i.e., impairment-based testing) and not based on an assessment of tasks or activities performed in the sport, nor any other aspect of the Athlete's sport performance. The IF's Classification rules must also specify the specific means by which that testing will be conducted and how the results will be evaluated.

- **MIC** must not consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

- However, the **MIC** must consider the extent to which the use of audio and/or visual aids (including eyeglasses or corrective lenses) might affect how the Athlete is able to execute those same tasks and activities.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT



**Adaptive Equipment** means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment that is permitted by the International Federation's Classification rules, save that audio and visual aids (including eyeglasses or corrective lenses) are not considered to be Adaptive Equipment.

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- The draft Code proposes additional regulations to ensure due attention is given to the potential impact of Adaptive Equipment in Sport Class allocation process and to ensure each International Federation is able to monitor the use of such Adaptive Equipment.

- Adaptive Equipment used in each Para sport will differ, and so will its impact on the Sport Class allocation process. International Federations have discretion to determine their rules and processes in this respect.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## CLASSIFICATION PANEL

**Classification Panel** means a specified number of Classifiers, appointed by an International Federation, to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification rules of that International Federation.

### Strengthened positions in the draft Code:

- Classification Panels are responsible for conducting Evaluation Sessions (stages 2-4).
- At least one member of a Classification Panel must not be of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed.
- Members of the Classification Panel should be of different nationalities to each other, irrespective of the Athlete's nationality.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## CLASSIFICATION PANEL

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code (continued):**

- In exceptional circumstances and provided that only Sport Class Status R-NAO accompanies the Sport Class allocation, the Code allows International Federations to authorise a Classification Panel to consist of a sole Classifier and/or of two Classifiers who are each of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed. In case of the sole Classifier, they must be a health professional with experience relevant to the Eligible Impairment of the Athlete being evaluated.

- A Chief Classifier should not be a member of the Classification Panel, but in circumstances where the Chief Classifier is at the same time a member of the Classification Panel, their responsibility in relation to Protests must be delegated.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## SPORT CLASSES AND COMPETITION FORMATS

- Classification groups Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.
- To provide a meaningful competition, Classification implies Athletes are envisaged to compete against Athletes within the same Sport Class.
- Competition formats, now defined as **Combined Class Events** refer to mechanisms which allow for grouping of Athletes from multiple sport classes into a singe medal event.
- Three main approaches have been identified: competing up, combined event and performance correction (factor system).
- This topic requires a holistic approach in defining future direction for the Movement. The Code aims to provide a classification perspective and minimum requirements for the IFs to meet and consider.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## SPORT CLASSES AND COMPETITION FORMATS

- The reasons why **Combined Class Events** are being implemented are:

1. Where single Sport Class events are not viable due to low Athlete participation rate;

2. Where the medal event programme is limited, and it does not allow for all combinations of single Sport Class medal events per gender / per discipline to be offered (such is the case at the Paralympic Games); and

3. Where there are operational constraints with running the event for a prolonged period of time (such as the road closure time limitations in Para triathlon).

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## SPORT CLASSES AND COMPETITION FORMATS

- IFs may (exceptionally) choose to allow Athletes with different Sport Classes to compete against each other (Combined Class Events), provided that the IFs Classification rules make clear:
  - Which Sport Classes may be combined, and in respect of which Relevant Competitions;
  - Any conditions or criteria applicable to such Combined Class Events (e.g., provisions around specific combinations of Sport Classes being allowed, or, in case of Team Sports, a maximum point score based on the sum of Sport Classes); and,
  - The reasons why the IF considers that those Sport Classes should be combined in respect of those Relevant Competitions and subject to those criteria.

- IFs which have historically included a performance compensation mechanism must cease such approach at Relevant Competitions by the end of the Transition Period (to be defined). The use of such performance compensation mechanism (e.g., factor system, staggered start) directly conflicts the principles and purpose of Classification, whereby the Eligible Impairment is the unit of Classification, rather than performance.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## SPORT CLASSES AND COMPETITION FORMATS

- Individual consultation is scoped with impacted IFs to further discuss this topic and identify alternative solutions, implementation timeframes, etc.
- A working group is scoped to be formed including multiple sports and various expertise (e.g., sport, technical officiating, classification, etc.)
- Any direct impact on Athletes and Transition Periods will first be discussed with the respective IF. Currently, no timeframes have been identified under the Transition Period.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SPORT CLASSES AND COMPETITION FORMATS

**TARGETED QUESTION**

Please provide feedback on the identified approach in the draft Code in respect to regulations surrounding Sport Classes and competition formats.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW


## OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

- Observation Assessment (OA) means the observation of an Athlete in Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination regarding the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- OA is used as a control mechanism to verify that previous components of an Evaluation Session match and confirm the Classification Panel's decision around the allocated Sport Class.
- IFs have discretion in deciding whether OA will be used in the Classification process within the sport(s) they govern.
- OA cannot lead to a designation of Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Stages 1 and 2), however it can lead to an IF Protest to re-assess Stages 1 and 2.
- OA can lead to reassessment of MIC and Sport Class (Stages 3 and 4)

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

## TARGETED QUESTIONS

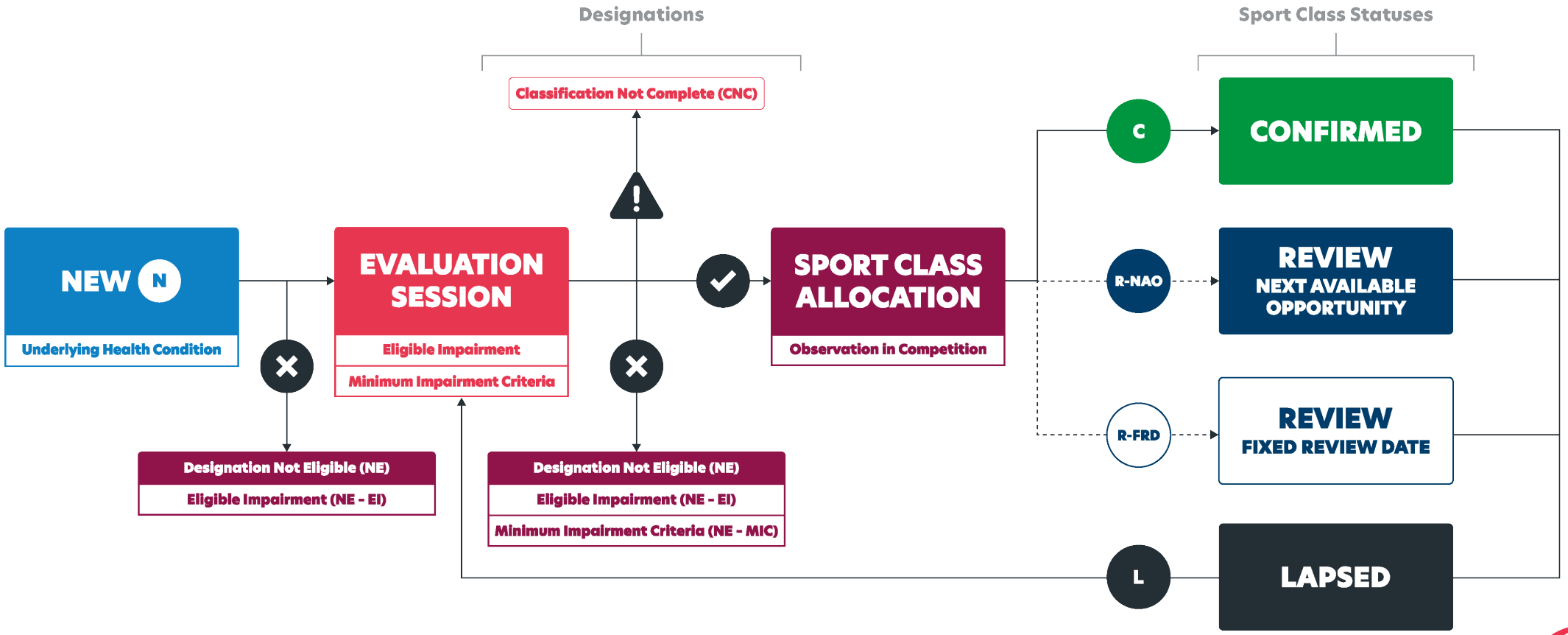
1. Should the Code allow for a Classification Panel to re-assess stages 2 and 3 after Observation Assessment, which may potentially lead to a designation of 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria'?

2. In cases where a Classification Panel reaches a different decision on the Sport Class following the Observation Assessment, should such decision always be confirmed via re-assessment of stage 4 – Sport Class assessment?

3. Please provide feedback in respect to regulations in the Code referring to the timeframe for a change in Sport Class after Observation Assessment for team sports.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

## SPORT CLASS STATUS



# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SUSPENSION AND CNC DESIGNATION



**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- A Classification Panel may suspend an Evaluation Session if it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session for any reason, for example: due to a failure of the Athlete to comply with the rules, inability to communicate effectively, inconsistent representation of abilities, and so on.

- If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, Panel must designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC), and the Panel must record on the applicable form:
  - why the designation has been applied,
  - details of the remedial action (to the extent such action can be taken) that is required on the part of the Athlete for the Evaluation Session to be resumed, and
  - whether the Classification Panel has any concerns about inconsistencies in the Athlete's performance or possible International Misrepresentation.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## SUSPENSION AND CNC DESIGNATION

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code (continued):**

- Where an Athlete has been designated as ‘Classification Not Completed’ on three or more consecutive occasions, the International Federation may determine that the Athlete is not entitled to undergo any further Evaluation Sessions for a specified period of time.

- It is important to note that the 'Classification not Completed' designation is not subject to a Protest or Appeal. This designation aims to support International Federations in handling situations where a Classification Panel is unable to complete an Evaluation Session.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OF EVALUATION SESSIONS

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- In-person Evaluation Sessions remain the most optimal format to carry out the Classification process.

- Certain individuals are permitted to participate virtually via telephone, video, or other virtual technologies, provided such technology does not adversely impact the Evaluation Session:
  - A person entitled to accompany the Athlete during Evaluation Sessions for whom the Athlete's National Federation or NPC is responsible,
  - an interpreter (if required),
  - any person from whom the Classification Panel seeks medical, technical, or scientific advice,
  - any person the Classification Panel needs to consult with during an Evaluation Session (for example, the Chief Classifier and/or Head of Classification),
  - and any independent observer or Trainee Classifiers.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OF EVALUATION SESSIONS

## TARGETED QUESTION

**Chief Classifier** means a Classifier appointed by an International Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to Classification rules of that International Federation.

Should the Chief Classifier be entitled to carry out their duties via virtual attendance only?

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## EVALUATION SESSION PROCEDURES AND RECORDING

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- The Classification Panel must make and keep written records of their assessments in each Evaluation Session. Such evidence must be reviewed by future Classification Panels with specific provisions included in respect to the timing of reviewing such information.
- The Classification Panel can use photographs and/or audio-visual technology during the Evaluation Session for assistance (including Observation Assessments), which must be handled according to the International Standard for Classification Data Protection. However, photography or audio/video recording of the session is not allowed by Participants. Violating this rule may lead to the suspension of the Evaluation Session.
- Athletes or their National Federations have the right to request copies of these materials.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## PROTESTS



**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- Protests are described as a challenge filed against the Athlete's Sport Class, whereas Appeals are described as a challenge to any aspect of the Classification process where a breach of the rules has occurred that could have led to incorrectly allocating a Sport Class or any of the designations (NE-EI, NE-MIC, Sport Class Status, CNC).

- The types of Protests are National Federation's and International Federation's Protest.

- While a NF cannot make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another Country/Territory, it can present any concerns about the Sport Class allocated to such Athletes to its IF so that the IF may consider if it wishes to make an IF Protest.

- Where an IF makes a Protest after the expiry of the deadline for NF Protests to be made (as specified under the IF Classification rules, the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is not final and may be subject to further Protest.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS



### Key considerations for an IF before implementing rule changes:

- Impact on Paralympic Games Cycle and Quadrennial Competition cycle.
- Assess the potential impact on Athletes, National Federations and NPCs.
- Estimate how many Athletes will be impacted by change.
- IFs must notify their Members, Athletes, Classifiers about anticipated changes, rationale, timelines, and transitional rules.

### Communication and feedback

- IFs must provide appropriate notice of anticipated changes. This should include a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, any transitional rules, and an overview of the consultation undertaken.
- IFs must offer National Federations the opportunity to submit feedback and comments on substantive changes before they are adopted.
- Upon receiving notifications of changes, National Federations must ensure their Athletes are made aware of such changes and invite Athletes to provide feedback on these changes.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS



- IFs must notify the IPC of anticipated changes, giving reasons for the changes, timelines, transitional rules, and a summary of the consultation process.

- IFs may modify the assessment methodology and/or criteria used for allocating Sport Classes (including all previous stages of the process. They must specify these changes in their Classification rules.

    - Depending on the change, Athletes may be entitled to undergo a new Evaluation Session and may have their Sport Class Status adjusted to Sport Class Status 'Review – Next Available Opportunity' (R - NAO).

    - If changes to the Classification rules are made after the start of the qualification period for the next Paralympic Games, affected Athletes will retain their current Sport Class until the end of the ongoing Paralympic Games cycle. Only at the beginning of the new Paralympic Games cycle will Athletes be allocated their new Sport Class under the updated Classification rules.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

- Provisions surrounding **Intentional Misrepresentation (IM)** have been moved from the Code to a standalone International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.

- The following constitutes **IM**:

  - A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead an International Federation or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or

  - A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation under point above.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

Examples of **IM**:

- Submitting forged medical documentation
- Deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session
- Intentionally presenting for an Evaluation Session without Adaptive Equipment
- Misrepresenting skills, abilities, impairment
- Disrupting the Evaluation Session or refusing to collaborate with the Classification Panel
- Not providing accurate identity
- Instructing a Participant to commit IM
- Covering up or not reporting the information of another Participant committing IM
- Other

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

**TARGETED QUESTION**

Please provide feedback on International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

- Classification Personnel, which encompasses roles from Classifiers to administrative officers, play an essential role in the management and delivery of Classification.
- The Standard emphasizes the continuous development and training of Classification Personnel to ensure confidence in Classification.
- The Head of Classification, vital in the process, can now be multiple individuals. Their role, potential conflicts, and clear communication of their identity by the International Federation have been highlighted.
- Conflict of Interest is rigorously addressed in the Standard, emphasizing the importance of clear boundaries and professional integrity, especially concerning former athletes, coaches, and support personnel roles in Classification.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The draft ISCPT places significant emphasis on conflicts of interest, providing examples of both potential and high-risk situations.

### Conflict of Interest - High Risk

The following persons cannot: (i) commence practical training to become an International Classifier, or receive certification as an International Classifier; or (ii) be appointed as a Chief Classifier or Head of Classification:

- An international athlete who is currently competing in any Para Sport, or who has retired from the same Para sport less than 4 years ago; or
- A national team coach or assistant coach of the same Para sport who has retired less than 4 years ago; or
- Athlete Support Personnel other than coaches, with direct involvement with the national team or athletes, in the last 2 years.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

### Conflict of Interest - Potential

- Classification Personnel associated with a National Federation or NPC.
- Classification Personnel taking on other roles at Competitions where they are acting as Classifiers.
- Pre-existing personal or professional relationships that might affect objectivity.

### Management:

- International Federations have discretion to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a situation presents a potential or actual conflict of interest.
- International Federations can decide not to appoint or to withdraw appointments of Classification Personnel based on perceived or potential conflicts.

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW



## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION DATA PROTECTION

**Strengthened positions in the draft Code:**

- IFs may share Classification data with other IFs (such as the data reviewed as part of the Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment Assessments and the outcomes of those assessments), provided that such sharing is done in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and applicable laws.

- Lawful grounds for processing data: An IF may ask an Athlete to consent to the use of Personal Information in relation to Classification , but also might take the view that it has a legitimate reason for recording an Athlete practicing, training, or preparing for a competition, even if that Athlete has not been asked to consent to that recording. This provision represents a change from the current practice, where obtaining consent is the main basis for processing Classification data.

- Classification data retention

- Sharing access to Classification data

# CLOSING

# CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW
## CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

- Thank you for participating in the Code review consultation process.
- Please submit your feedback on the 2nd draft Code and International Standards using the form available online: **Code Review: Phase 3 Consultation Survey**. The deadline is 31 October 2023.
- All feedback collected by the IPC will be circulated to the Code Review Team for their analysis.
- All information regarding the Code Review can be found on the **Classification Code review** webpage.
- Following the analysis of the feedback received as part of this consultation phase, the Code Review Team will look to produce a final draft Code and International Standards in 2024.
- For any questions or further feedback, contact the IPC management team at codereview@paralympic.org

# THANK YOU