

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing

Classification Certification Training Programme

1. Classifier Competencies, Qualifications and Responsibilities.

- 1.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as an IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (IWF) Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by IWAS as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 1.2 IWF will provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 1.3 IWF Classifier competencies are as follows:
 - 1.3.1 Suitable Professional qualifications, level of experience, skills and/or technical experience. This includes the following:
 - (a) a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment categories which IWF at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist.
 - (b) A person with technical knowledge of the sport/extensive coaching or relevant background in the sport (eg retired International Athlete), or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport specific expertise, which IWF at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
 - 1.3.2 A thorough understanding of the IWF Classification Rules and ability to apply them for IWF Athlete classification.
 - 1.3.3 An understanding of the IWF sport, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport.
 - 1.3.4 An Understanding of the IPC Classification code and International Standards.
 - 1.3.5 All classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated in the IWAS Code of Ethics and the IWAS Classifier Code of Conduct. If any classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IWAS code of Ethics or the IWAS Classifier code of Conduct, IWF will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorisation. IWF may also make such recommendations as it sees fit to IPC and any other relevant bodies as regards any certification held by the relevant Classification Personnel to act as classification Personnel in respect of other sports.

2. Classifier Training and Certification Programme

IWF certifies Classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of Athletes with Physical Impairment.

2.1 Participants Profile

- Candidates must have the following qualifications/skills or technical knowledge:

Be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment categories which IWF at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist.

Or a person with technical knowledge of the sport/extensive coaching or relevant background in the sport (eg retired International Athlete), or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport specific expertise, which IWF at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

- Candidates must have a proficient level of spoken English.
- Candidates must be recommended by their NPC or National Federation.
- To serve as an International Classifier one may not have a conflict of interest. (such as serving as a National team physician or Physiotherapist at the event of the classification)
- The cost of all training will be the responsibility of the candidate and/or the NPC/National Federation.

2.2 IWF Classification Certification Pathway

The IWF Classification Certification Programme is composed of two parts;

Stage 1: Classification Seminar which includes teaching modules, practical training with assessment and a written examination.

Stage 2: Participation in IWF classification at International competition, including continued assessment by International Classifiers.

Stage 1: Classification Seminar

The Classification Seminar will consist of:

- Theoretical sessions about the classification steps, rules, assessments and procedures.
- Practical assessment training
- Simulated Classification situations
- Assisting with classification under direction of an International classifier, including athlete assessment and observation during competition/controlled environment.

Assessments:

- Assessment of practical classifications
Candidates will be observed by Senior classifiers, including the classification process, paperwork, communication, athlete assessment and decision making.
- Written examination.
A written exam consisting of questions on all aspects of the classification Rules and Athlete Assessment must be completed. The results of the written examination will be given to the candidate at the time of the Seminar .

The following learning outcomes should be achieved:

- Know the role of an IWF classifier
- Understand and apply the conceptual basis of classification
- Understand and conduct relevant medical tests/functional assessments for physical impairment
- Know the minimum eligible requirements
- Understand observational assessment
- Learn how to properly communicate classification outcomes
- Understand and be able to follow the proper procedures of classification of athletes with physical impairments to the IWF standards, including all paperwork.

Outcomes

Candidates who have successfully completed the Classification Seminar and who have achieved the required level of knowledge and practical competencies will receive a certificate for IWF National Level Classifier Accreditation and may serve as a National Level Classifier for their home NPC/National Federation.

Candidates who have completed the Classification Seminar but have not reached the required level of competency will receive a Certificate of Attendance only.

Such candidates may, subject to confirmation from the Head of classification, attend further classification Seminars and retake the assessments and written examinations.

Stage 2: Participation in IWF Classification.

Candidates who have successfully achieved their National Level Accreditation may continue their professional classification education towards an International Level Accreditation.

National Level Classifiers, as trainees will be required to attend a minimum of three(3) IWF international competitions, and assist the International classifiers with a minimum of twenty (20) classifications.

These minimum requirements will depend on the individual candidates competencies as a classifier and may be reduced or increased as is appropriate by the Head of Classification.

Trainee International classifiers will assist with all aspects of the classification process and must demonstrate their competencies in athlete classification and observation, knowledge of the classification rules, completion of all paperwork and effective communication of classification outcomes. In addition, the Trainee will take part in all other classification activities such as attending the Delegation Meetings, assisting in handling any protests, participating in any athlete/coaches educational sessions or any other as designated by the Head of Classification as deemed appropriate.

Trainees will be assisted in their participation and mentored by the attending International classifiers in order to ensure that the Trainee gains relevant experience and increased knowledge of different classification scenarios.

Assessments

The Trainee International classifier will be assessed by observation and questioning during their participation at the International competition.

The Senior/Chief classifier at the competition will complete a written report regarding the competency of the Trainee International classifier and any recommendations for future training.

The Head of classification will notify the candidate as to the result of their assessment and if further Training is required.

Outcome

Once the required level of competency has been demonstrated by the Trainee they will be awarded a certificate of IWF International Classifier Accreditation. (Level 1)

International classifiers will be included on the IWAS list of International classifiers and will be eligible to be included as IWAS classifiers at International competitions.

3. Maintaining Certification

To maintain IWF International Classification certification a classifier must:

- Classify at least once every 2 year period at an International classification opportunity.
- Follow and contribute to any classification update workshops, update calls and further Professional Education or Competency Seminars as required by the Head of classification.
- Classify nationally any IWF athletes as required.

4. Recertification after a Period of Inactivity

Any International classifier who remains inactive for a period of 2 years or more is required to undergo recertification.

The recertification process is dependent upon the individual classifiers experience and activity before the period of inactivity.

The inactive Classifier who wants to recertify must send a letter to the IWF Head of Classification with reason of absence and performed activities. Decision on the recertification pathway will be made by the Head of classification who may consult with his Senior Classifiers if appropriate.

- An experienced Classifier (senior, Level 2) may have a gap of 3 years, but must have an update session (on any new rules etc) with a Senior Classifier before re-certification.
- A less experienced classifier (Level 1) may have a gap of 2 years, and will need an update session with a Senior Classifier and also supervised classification at an International Classification Opportunity to demonstrate competency.
- After longer periods of inactivity the inactive classifier will have to follow both stages of classifier pathway, starting with the classification Seminar.