

UCI Para-cycling Classification Guide

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SECTION ONE: UCI RULES

In case of discrepancy official rule document in English is the reference.

CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE, CHAPTER IV

Please refer to articles 16.4.001 and following of Part XVI of the [UCI Regulation](#).

PARA-CYCLING SPORT CLASS PROFILES, CHAPTER V

Please refer to articles 16.5.001 and following of Part XVI of the [UCI Regulation](#).

SECTION TWO: GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The UCI Para-cycling Classification Guide has been developed in compliance with the IPC Classification Code (2007) and will be implemented in full on January 1, 2010 in conjunction with the revised UCI Rules found in Chapters IV and V of Part XVI, Para-cycling.

The purpose of the Para-cycling Classification is to minimize the impact of impairment on the outcome of the competition, so that an athlete's success in competition relies on training, physical fitness and personal athletic talent. Classification is an on-going process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all athletes.

In order to achieve this purpose, athletes are classified according to the extent of activity limitation resulting from their impairment. This places athletes according to how much their impairment affects core determinants of performance in cycling.

Classification has two important roles:

- to determine eligibility to compete;
- to group athletes for competition.¹

Eligible impairment types

The UCI eligibility criteria define how an athlete may be considered eligible to compete. These criteria are based on the specific functions which are required to compete equitably with other athletes with a disability.

All athletes must meet the Minimum Disability Criteria (**MDC**) for their group. The MDC is set to ensure that the athlete's impairment causes him/her sufficient difficulty in cycling. As a consequence, an athlete may meet the eligibility criteria for one sport but may not be able to compete in another sport. This does not mean the athlete does not have a verifiable impairment, only that he/she does not meet the criteria for para-cycling. If an athlete has activity limitations that are not permanent and / or do not limit the athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with athletes without impairment, the athletes should be considered ineligible to compete.

There are four impairment groups in para-cycling:

1. Neurological- impairments with either central or peripheral damage, either congenital or acquired. Resulting in:
 - spasticity,
 - athetosis,
 - ataxia,
 - dystonia and mixed – spasticity/athetosis/ataxia/dystonia
 - peripheral nerve damage
 - impaired muscle power
2. Locomotor, including:
 - Amputations – as defined in the sport classes
 - limb deficiency and limb length difference,
 - impaired muscle power
 - impaired passive joint range of motion
 - multiple impairments that lead to a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation.
3. Spinal cord lesions – complete or incomplete

¹ UCI _ Para-cycling 16.4.01

4. Visual impairments – athletes who meet the criteria set down in chapter V section 16.5.014 for Tandem Class B.

These eligible impairment types must be permanent and verifiable. If an athlete has a health condition causing pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, he/she will not be eligible for evaluation. If an athlete has an injury causing pain, the Chief Classifier (CC) may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation. However, if the athlete does not have a Sports Class and a Sports Class Status he/she will not be eligible to compete in the competition.

ATHLETE EVALUATION

National Federation

It is the National Federation's responsibility to ensure the athlete is nationally classified. In countries where there are no Classifiers available the athlete should be classified at regional or invitational events.

National Federations should work in conjunction with the UCI Para-cycling Head of Classification (HoC) and the Para-cycling Coordinator to develop a plan to train national Classifiers.

It is the responsibility of the National Federation to ensure that the athlete is medically fit to compete and that any secondary medical conditions such as epilepsy or concussion syndrome are under control. It is recommended that the NF download and if necessary translate the Informed Consent form prior to competition.

Presentation at classification

Athletes should attend classification in race dress with bicycle/tricycle/handcycle, helmet and any other equipment required to ride. Tandem B riders should bring their glasses/contacts and visual field tests (Goldman) if applicable.

Athletes must bring:

- One representative (head coach, NF representative)
- A translator if they do not speak English
- A list of medication with dosage in English,
- Their UCI license and/or passport
- If they have a complex impairment, medical records relevant to the impairment in English.

The athlete must sign an Informed Consent form and may be videotaped or photographed for classification and / or education purposes. Copies of the Informed Consent form may be found on the UCI website.

Prior to the athlete evaluation, a classification panel member will answer any questions the athlete and his or her accompanying support staff may have regarding the procedures involved in the classification process. The athlete is encouraged to ask further questions at any time during the classification evaluation.

Failure to attend classification at the scheduled time or failure to attend in proper attire or without equipment may result in the athlete not being classified. If an athlete has not been classified at the international event during the time set aside for classification for that discipline he/she may not compete.

Athletes with an N or R Sport Class Status should be at the event and ready for classification on the first classification day at 8:00 a.m. in order to be on time for their scheduled classification. National Federations should consult the Para-Cycling Coordinator or the Chief Classifier of the event to find out their classification appointment time.

Athletes not registered for the event will not be classified at the event.

Failure to cooperate or complete the classification process

Athletes who fail to cooperate with Classifiers or fail to complete the classification process will be subject to sanctions in accordance with the UCI Classification Guide.

Procedure

If the Classification Panel decides that the athlete is not cooperating, it will provide the athlete with one verbal warning. If it feels the athlete continues to be uncooperative it will stop classification and notify the CC for the event. The CC will consider any rationale for the failure to cooperate and decide if the athlete will be given a second opportunity. If the CC decides not to provide a second opportunity no protest will be allowed.

Any athlete found to have been uncooperative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of twelve months starting from the date upon which the athlete failed to cooperate.²

Informed Consent

Athletes must sign a Classification Informed Consent form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and cooperation throughout the classification process. This form is available in Appendix A of this Guide and on the UCI Website for downloading and signing before classification. It is recommended that countries have the document translated if necessary so that the athletes understand what they are signing. Athletes should read and sign the document.

Sport Class and Sport Class Status

Sports Class – after the physical assessment the Classification Panel will assign the athlete a Classification based on the chart and profiles found in Chapter V 16.4.008 of the para-cycling rules.

SPORT CLASS STATUS

There are four different sports class status.

New (N)

For an athlete competing for the first time at a UCI para-cycling event

Review (R)

Sport Class Status Review (R) is assigned to an athlete who is still subject to further re-evaluation. The athletes current Sport Class is valid, but the athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a competition.

Fixed Review Date (FRD)

A classification panel that allocates Sport Class Status Review may also, if it considers it appropriate to do so, nominate a "Fixed Review Date".

If a Fixed Review Date is set in this manner, then:

- the Athlete will not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation at any competition prior to the Fixed Review Date
- the Athlete will retain the Sport Class assigned to that Athlete and be permitted to compete with that Sport Class.

The Athlete may, at his or her own request, attend Athlete Evaluation before the Fixed Review Date pursuant to the Medical Review Process. The Fixed Review Date will be the first day of the Competition Season indicated by the classification panel.

² UCI Para-cycling Rules 16.04.11

Confirmed (C)

For athletes who have completed the classification requirements for their impairment.

Not Eligible (NE) to compete

Athletes who are found to be not eligible to compete will be seen by a second panel. If the second panel finds the athlete NE the decision will be final and not open to protest or appeal. If the medical classifiers find the athlete does not meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Classification Rules the classification assessment will stop immediately and the CC will be notified.

Notification

After the athlete has completed his/her first appearance in the discipline for which he/she is being classified he/she will be notified verbally and in writing through his/her NF representative of the final decision of the panel. Other countries will be notified as soon as is logistically possible. The CC will notify the Commissaires and the Technical Delegate.

The Classification Master List will be updated on the UCI Para-cycling website within **30 days** of the end of the event and will thereby be available to all countries.

Intentional misrepresentation of skills and/or abilities³

An athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities shall be considered to be in violation of the UCI Classification Rules.

If an athlete intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that competition in that sport.

In addition:

The athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.

The HoC and/or Para-cycling Coordinator will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete from the UCI Classification Master List and replaces it with IM (Intentional Misrepresentation).

The athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for any discipline within the UCI for a period of two years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities. The National Federation (NF) will be informed in writing.

An athlete, who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, will receive a lifetime ban from UCI events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by the UCI.

During physical or technical assessment, if the Classification Panel finds the athlete to be misrepresenting his/her skills or abilities, it will stop classifying the athlete and contact the CC.

If the panel sees a difference between the impairment assessed during the physical and/or technical assessment and the impairment during the athlete's first appearance or subsequent races it must contact the CC immediately.

The CC will notify the National Federation, Para-cycling Coordinator, Commissaires and the Technical Delegate as soon as is logistically possible.

The athlete will not be able to continue competing and any prior wins will be void and medals returned.

³ UCI Para-cycling Rules 16.04.012

They will be designated as IM (Intentional Misrepresentation) on the Classification Master List and not allowed to undergo further classification for a period of two years from that date.

Consequence to support personnel ⁴

The UCI will enforce sanctions on athlete support personnel who assist or encourage an athlete to be uncooperative, intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

Those who are involved in advising athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to the same sanctions as the athletes.

The UCI will disclose details of penalties imposed upon athletes and their support personnel at the event to all nations.

The CC will immediately notify the National Federation, Para-cycling Coordinator, Commissaires and the Technical Delegate. The Para-cycling Coordinator will be responsible for informing the nations not present as soon as logistically possible. The Para-cycling Coordinator, in consultation with the HoC, will confer with the UCI Legal Committee and put in place a process that it is determined on a case by case basis.

PROTESTS ⁵

The term “protest” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete’s sport class is made and subsequently resolved. Protests should only be submitted by a designated representative of a National Cycling Federation or CC under exceptional circumstances. An athlete’s Sport Class should only be protested once, with the exception of protests submitted in exceptional circumstances. A protest of a Sport Class allocated by the UCI can only be resolved by the UCI.

In-competition protests

Will take place only in competitions where there are two panels available and should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on the competition. Medal presentations must not occur until protests have been finalized.

Out of competition protests

Must be submitted to the HoC and the UCI Coordinator within 30 days of the last day of a competition in which the athlete has competed or 60 days prior to a competition where the athlete will compete.

Athletes may only be protested once by their own nation and once by another nation, and only under exceptional circumstances.

Procedures

Protests must be submitted by a National Federation representative authorized to submit protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager) and/or the CC.

The CC for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive protests on behalf of the UCI at an event.

An athlete's Sport Class may be protested within one hour (60 minutes) of the athlete being advised of the Classification Panel’s decision regarding his/her Sport Class.

A National Federation representative may protest the Sport Class of an athlete of a different National Federation within one hour (60 minutes) of the athlete's first appearance in competition or within one hour (60 minutes) of the athlete being assigned the Sport Class, whichever is the later.

⁴ UCI Para-cycling Rules 16.04.013

⁵ UCI Para-cycling Rules 16.04.015

Protests must be submitted, in English, on a designated Protest Form (see Appendix A) that should be made available by the CC at the competition. It is also available on the UCI website. The information and documentation to be submitted with the protest form must include the following:

- The name, nation and sport of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
- Details of the decision being protested;
- The reason for the protest and the rationale;
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the protest;
- The signature of the National Federation representative or the CC, where applicable; and
- A fee of 100 Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that competition).

If the NF wins the protest, the UCI will return the protest fee. If the NF loses the protest, the UCI will retain it.

Upon receipt of the protest form, the CC shall review it to determine if there are grounds for a protest and if all the necessary information has been included.

If it appears to the CC that the protest form has been submitted without all the necessary information, the CC shall dismiss the protest and notify all relevant parties.

If the protest is declined the CC shall state in writing why the protest has not been accepted.

For example, protests may be rejected due to the following reasons:

- The athlete has been protested previously and a final decision was made.
- The protest submission was not completed within the timeframe.
- The protest form was not signed by the representative of the NF.

If the protest is accepted, the CC will appoint a Protest Panel to conduct athlete evaluation as outlined in chapter V section 16.4.006.

The members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 12 months prior to the protest being submitted.

The CC will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the athlete evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel. This should occur as quickly as possible and the athlete may not compete in another event until the protest is completed.

All documentation submitted with the protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels shall conduct the initial evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel which allocated the athlete's most recent sport class. After its initial assessment in reviewing an athlete's Sport Class, the Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise, including the first panel if necessary.

All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

If the protest is won by the NF and the classification changes, the Para-cycling Coordinator will be informed immediately by the CC or HoC. The Sports Class change takes effect immediately. The Para-cycling Coordinator will ensure that all medal standings are changed, ranking, records and Master Lists adjusted to reflect the change of class.

The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further protest or appeal.

Exceptional circumstances

Exceptional circumstances arise when a CC believes an athlete demonstrates significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition, which does not reflect the athlete's current Sport Class.

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;
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.

Table 1: Protest opportunities during competitions

Athlete Sport Class status	Can be protested by athlete's NF and/or other NF	Can be protested by Chief Classifier
New (N)	YES	YES
Review (R)	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	NO*	YES

*Athlete may only be protested once

The CC will advise the athlete and relevant National Federation that a protest is being made in exceptional circumstances. A new Classification Panel will be assigned to assess the athlete. The CC will supervise the process.

Athlete evaluation following a protest shall follow the same process as described in Athlete Evaluation. All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following athlete evaluation.

The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further protest or appeal.

Procedures for protests submitted out of competition⁶

Out of competition protests must be submitted to the HoC and UCI Para-cycling Coordinator within 30 days of the last day of a competition in which the athlete has competed or 60 days prior to a competition where the athlete will compete.

Athlete Sport Class status	Can be protested by athlete's NF or another NF	Can be protested by the Chief Classifier
Review (R)*	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	YES*	YES**

***If an athlete has entered the event as a R and is given C status at the end of that event, another NF may protest the athlete. However, the athlete may only be protested once.**

**** Under exceptional circumstances.**

⁶ UCI Para-cycling Rules 16.04.015

All R athletes may only be protested once.

Protests made out of competition must be submitted by a National Federation representative authorized to submit protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager); and/or the CC (under exceptional circumstances).

Protests must be submitted on the UCI Para-cycling official protest form to the HoC of the sport with a copy to the UCI Para-cycling Coordinator. A fee of 300 Euros must be paid.

Regardless of the outcome of a protest, the UCI will retain the protest fee.

Upon receipt of the official protest form and the protest fee, the HoC shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant rules concerning the submission of a protest have been complied with and will then proceed to accept or reject the protest.

If the relevant rules have not been complied with or there are no substantial grounds for a protest, the protest shall be dismissed and the protest form returned.

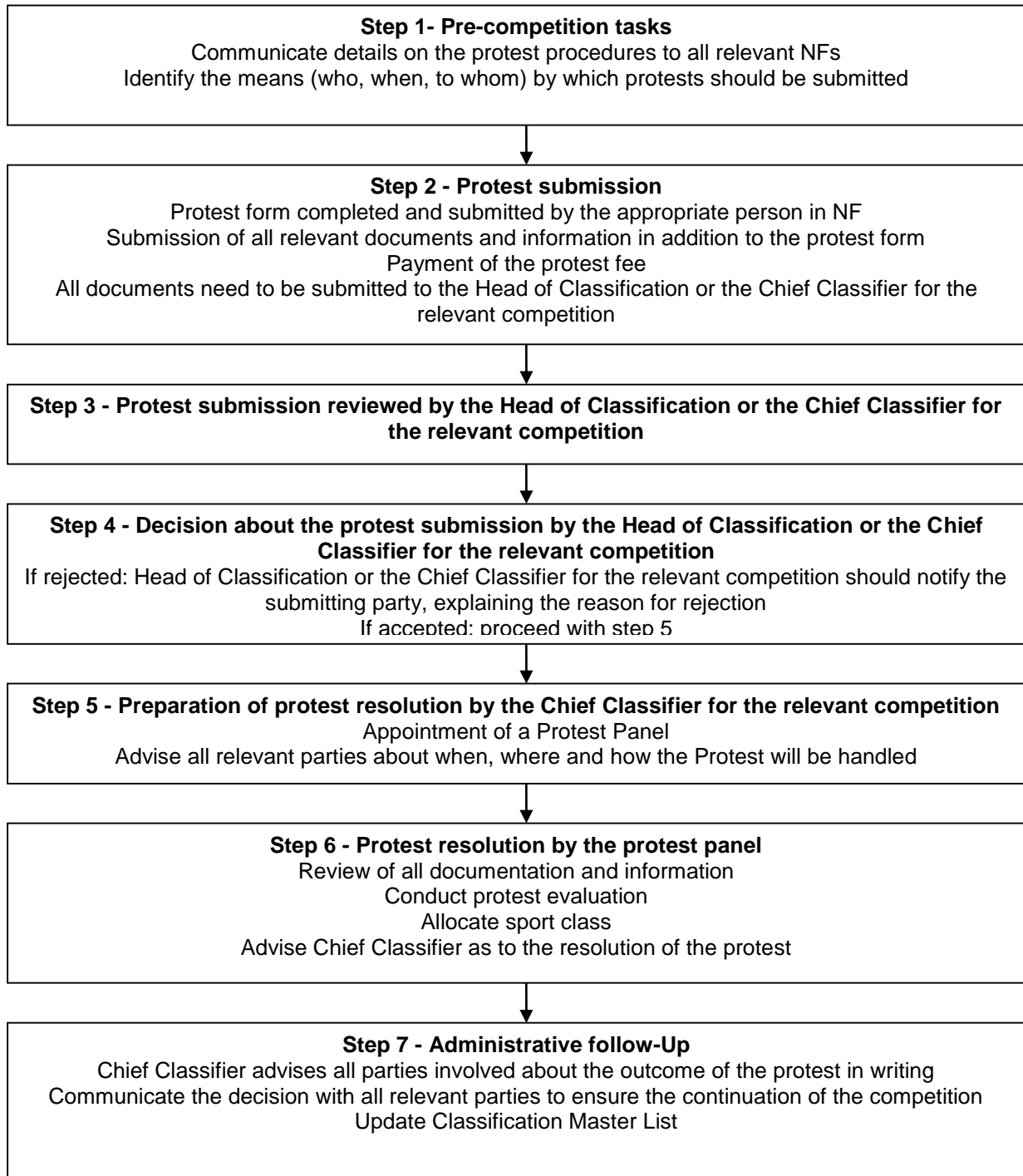
The HoC Head of Classification and / or the UCI Para-cycling Coordinator shall notify all parties within 30 days of the time and date for the protest evaluation, which, following consultation with all relevant parties, may take place at an agreed event. If the protest is rejected, the reasons why the protest was rejected will be given.

Protests submitted out of competition will not be considered at a Paralympic Games. Athlete evaluation following a protest made out of competition shall follow the same process as described in Chapter IV section 16.4.006. All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following athlete evaluation.

The decision of the Protest Panel following an out of competition protest is final and is not subject to any further protest or appeal.

The Protest Pathway

The following sections describe the various stages of a protest procedure during or out of competition.



APPEALS

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.

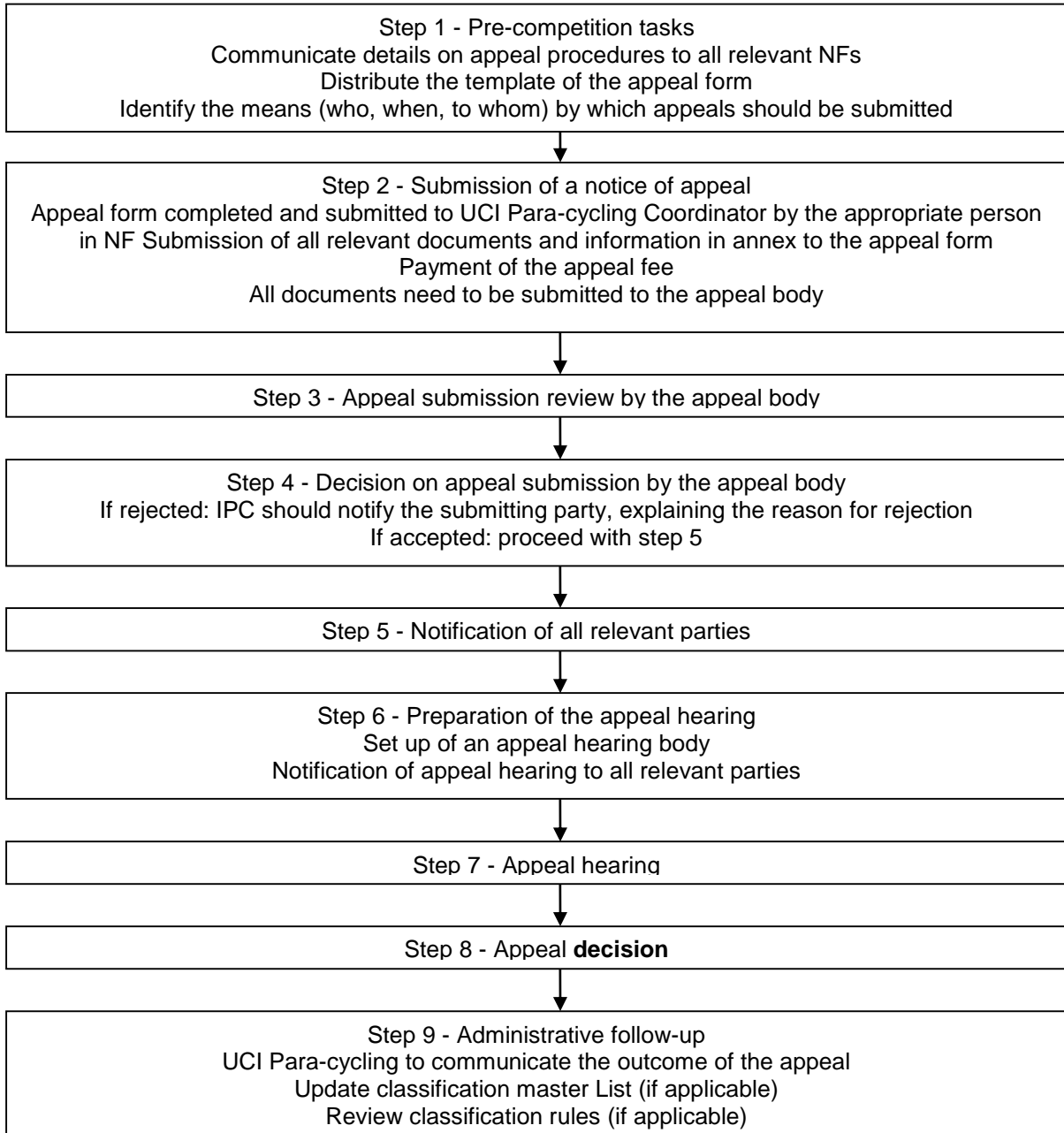
UCI Para-cycling has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Arbitration Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for UCI Para-cycling. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate protest procedures have been followed.

The Appeal pathway

The following sections describe the various stages of an appeal conducted during or out of competition.



UCI INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

UCI shall appoint the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification for UCI.

Head of Classification

The Head of Classification for UCI will be appointed by UCI to be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of all classification matters for UCI and shall chair the Classification Committee.

Classifiers

A Classifier is a person authorised and certified by UCI to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the UCI Para-Cycling Rules and Regulations while serving as a member of a classification panel.

UCI Classifiers are required, as appropriate, to assist in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Rules and Sport Class profiles for UCI; participate in Classifier workshops arranged by UCI and/or the IPC from time to time; and attend such Classifier training as requested from time to time by the UCI.

The Head of Classification may be appointed as Classifier and/ or Chief Classifier.

Chief Classifiers

A Chief Classifier is a Classifier who is appointed by UCI to act as the senior Classifier present at a specific UCI Competition.

A Chief Classifier is responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at a Competition. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by UCI to do the following:

- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that the Rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition;
- Manage the Protest process as required;
- Liaise with the relevant Competition organiser or UCI (whichever body is responsible) to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.

Trainee Classifiers

UCI may appoint Trainee Classifiers in order that they may be certified as a Classifier. A Trainee Classifier may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under supervision of a Classification Panel in order to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies so as to be certified by UCI as a Classifier. They will be required to perform any such other duties as UCI requires.

Classifier Competencies, Qualifications and Responsibilities

UCI certifies Classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of athletes with a Physical and Visual Impairment.

UCI requires Classifiers to have one of the below qualifications in order to be considered for certification as UCI Classifier:

Classification for Athletes with a Physical Impairment

- **Medical Classifier:** a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Impairment category which UCI at its sole discretion deems acceptable, e.g. A medical doctor or physiotherapist who has knowledge and experience in dealing with people with physical impairments such as spinal cord lesions, locomotor impairments and neurological impairments as defined by the sport class profiles, and who are trained to assess muscle strength, range of motion, balance and coordination. The medical classifier establishes eligibility to compete based on the criteria in the sport class profiles.
- **Technical Classifier:** an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the sport of cycling or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise with the ability to analyse gait

and assess the athlete on the bicycle/tricycle/handcycle, which UCI at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

Classification for Athletes with a Visual Impairment

- Ophthalmologists and optometrists

All Classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated from time to time in the IPC Code of Ethics and the UCI Classifier Code of Conduct. If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IPC Code of Ethics or the UCI Classifier Code of Conduct, UCI will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorisation.

Classification Panels

A Classification Panel is a body that is appointed by UCI to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the UCI Rules. A Classification Panel should be comprised of a minimum of two (2) classifiers.

A Classification Panel for Athletes with a Physical Impairment shall comprise of two (2) classifiers; a medical classifier and a technical classifier. At the discretion of the Head of Classification, a medical classifier may fill the role of a technical classifier if he/she has dual certification.

A Classification Panel for athletes with a Visual Impairment consists of two IPC/IBSA International Classifiers who specialise in Ophthalmology or Optometry.

Classification Personnel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel present at a Competition or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest. Classification Personnel must disclose to UCI any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel.

UCI will wherever possible ensure that Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at a Competition will not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it considers in its sole discretion that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

CLASSIFIER TRAINING PATHWAY

The training pathway or how to become a Classifier is still under construction.

National Federations wishing to train Para-cycling Classifiers should contact the Para-cycling Coordinator to find out about training opportunities.