

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION.
PARACANOE CLASSIFICATION RULES & REGULATIONS

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PURPOSE

These Classification Rules (hereinafter the “Rules”) provide a framework within which the process of “Classification” will take place. The term “Classification” refers to a structure for Competition the aim of which is to ensure an Athlete’s Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure Athletes compete equitable with each other. The purpose of Classification is to minimize the impact of eligible Impairment types on the outcome of competition, so Athletes who succeed in competition are those with the best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to the best effect.

1. ARTICLE 1 - SCOPE & APPLICATION

These Rules are an integral part of the ICF Paracanoe Rules & Regulations and are intended to implement the provisions of the IPC Classification Code for the sport of ICF Paracanoeing.

1.2 These Rules shall apply to:

1.2.1 All Athletes who compete in ICF sanctioned competitions or any of it’s member Federations or affiliate organizations as defined in the ICF Paracanoe Rules & Regulations

1.3 Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and Classification Personnel are responsible to acquaint themselves with all of the requirements of these Rules, the IPC Classification Code (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) and the other sections of the IPC Handbook that apply to Classification, including the IPC Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale for Classification in Paralympic Sport (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 4.4)

International Classification

1.4 Athlete Evaluation conducted in full compliance with these Rules is referred to as International Paracanoe Classification. ICF Paracanoe will only recognize Sport Class and Sport Class Status when allocated by International Classification.

1.5 ICF Paracanoe will provide athletes with an opportunity to undertake International Paracanoe Classification by appointing Classifiers certified pursuant to Article Two to conduct Athlete Evaluation at Recognized Competitions, and by providing reasonable notice of such International Paracanoe Classification to Athletes and National Federations.

1.6 An Athlete will only be permitted to undergo International Paracanoe Classification if he or she has been entered in a recognized Competition where International Paracanoe Classification is to take place.

Interpretation, Commencement and Amendment

1.7 These Rules shall be interpreted and applied at all times in a manner consistent with the IPC Classification Code.

- 1.8 These Rules shall come into force and effect on the Effective Date as Specified by the ICF.
- 1.9 Amendments to these Rules shall be approved and shall come into effect in the manner prescribed by the ICF. The ICF may at any time amend, update or otherwise alter the text, meaning and effect of the Appendices independently of these Rules.

2 ARTICLE 2 - CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

2.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Rules. Article Two explains how ICF Paracanoe Classification Personnel assist in the delivery of classification under these Rules.

Classification Personnel

2.2 The ICF Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the ICF Paracanoe Committee shall appoint the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organization and execution of classification for ICF Paracanoe.

2.3 Head of Classification

2.3.1 The Head of Classification for ICF Paracanoe shall be appointed to be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of all classification matters for ICF Paracanoe in consultation with the Chair of the ICF Paracanoe committee

2.3.2 The ICF Paracanoe Committee may delegate the role of Head of Classification to a person or persons on a temporary basis; such persons shall be identified publicly by ICF Paracanoe

2.3.3 The Head of Classification in conjunction with the Chair of the Paracanoe committee shall be responsible for appointing Classification Panels to conduct International Paracanoe Classification at Recognized Competitions

2.4 Classifiers

2.4.1 A Paracanoe Classifier is a person authorised and certified by ICF Paracanoe as being competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation as part of a Classification Panel. The ICF shall specify from time to time the means by which it shall certify Classifiers.

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

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

2.5 Chief Classifiers

2.5.1 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier who is appointed by ICF Paracanoe to act as the senior Classifier present at a specific ICF Paracanoe Recognized Competition.

2.5.2 A Chief Classifier is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of Classification matters at a Competition. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required to do the following:

- 2.5.2.1 Identify and notify Athletes who will be competing at that Competition who will require Athlete Evaluation,
 - 2.5.2.2 Supervise Classifiers to ensure the Rules are applied appropriately during the competition,
 - 2.5.2.3 Manage the Protest process as required by Article Seven
 - 2.5.2.4 Liaise with the relevant Competition organizer to ensure all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers will be able to carry out their duties at the competition.
- 2.6 Trainee Classifiers
- 2.6.1 ICF Paracanoe may appoint Trainee Classifiers in order that they may become certified as Classifiers
 - 2.6.2 A Trainee Classifier may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel in order to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies so as to be certified by ICF Paracanoe as a Classifier. They will be required to perform any such duties as ICF Paracanoe requires.
- 2.7 Classifier Competencies, Qualifications and Responsibilities
- ICF Paracanoe certifies Classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of Athletes with Physical Impairments.
- 2.8 ICF Paracanoe requires Classifiers to have one of the below qualifications in order to be considered for certification as ICF Paracanoe Classifiers:
- 2.8.1 A Medical Classifier shall be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Impairment category which ICF Paracanoe deems acceptable, eg. medical physicians and physiotherapists for athletes with Physical Impairment.
 - 2.8.2 A Technical Classifier shall have an extensive practical knowledge of canoeing which ICF Paracanoe deems acceptable such as; a canoeing coach, a canoeing sport scientist, a former canoeist or a similarly qualified person.
- 2.9 Only classifiers fulfilling the requirements of Article 2.8.1 are entitled to conduct a Physical assessment (for athletes with physical impairment)
- 2.10 All Classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated from time to time in the IPC Code of Ethics and the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct. If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IPC Code of Ethics or the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct, ICF Paracanoe will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorisation. ICF Paracanoe 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 other sports.

3.0 ARTICLE THREE – CLASSIFICATION PANELS

- 3.1 A Paracanoe Classification Panel is a body appointed by ICF Paracanoe to conduct Athlete Evaluations in accordance with these Rules. A Paracanoe Classification Panel shall be comprised of two Classifiers; one Medical Classifier and one Technical Classifier.
- 3.2 ICF Paracanoe and Competition organizers shall, whenever possible, ensure a minimum of two Classification Panels at major Recognized Competitions; eg. World Championships, World Cups and large Continental Championships.
- 3.3 The 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 ICF Paracanoe any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest which may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel.
- 3.4 ICF Paracanoe shall, whenever possible, ensure Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at a Competition shall not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.5 A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it considers, in its sole discretion, this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

4.0 ARTICLE FOUR - ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.

ATHLETE EVALUATION PROCESS

- 4.2 The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:
- 4.2.1 Physical Assessment: The Classification Panel shall conduct a Physical Assessment of the Athlete in accordance with the Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes within ICF Paracanoe in order to establish the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment which meets the Minimum Disability Criteria and,
- 4.2.2 Technical Assessment: The Classification Panel shall conduct a Technical Assessment of the athlete which will include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities which are part of canoeing. Technical assessment is performed on an Ergometer. It is also conducted in an On-water Technical Observation assessment with the Athlete in

the specific boat, using the specific adaptive equipment and in the specific position in the boat which the Athlete will use in Competition.

- 4.2.3 Observation Assessment: The Classification Panel may conduct Observation Assessment, which shall involve observing an Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the Sport in Competition. Observation Assessment shall only take place if a Classification Panel cannot complete the Athlete Evaluation without observing the Athlete in Competition.
- 4.3 The means by which Physical, Technical and Observation Assessment are to be conducted are specified in the Appendix to these Rules.

ATHLETE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.4 The following requirements apply to Athlete Evaluation:
- 4.4.1 The Athlete and his/her National Federation are jointly responsible for ensuring the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation
- 4.4.2 Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes and documents will be conducted in English. If the Athlete and/or the Athlete Support Personnel require an interpreter, the Athlete's National Federation shall be responsible for arranging the attendance of an interpreter.
- 4.4.3 One person (in addition to a required interpreter) may accompany an Athlete during Athlete Evaluation. This person should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sporting history. This person must be a member of the Athlete's National Federation or must be otherwise authorized in advance by the Chief Classifier to attend the Athlete's Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.4.4 The Athlete must accept the terms of the ICF Paracanoe Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation. The Athlete must provide identification in the form of a National passport which verifies the Athlete's identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel.
- 4.4.5 The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with the specific boat and specific adaptive equipment in the same position to be used by the Athlete in Competition. In addition, Athlete attire must be close fitting and not obscure body movements.
- 4.4.6 The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with all relevant medical documentation (in English or with a certified English translation), including but not limited to medical reports, medical records and diagnostic information which relate to the Athlete's Impairment.

- 4.4.7 The Athlete must disclose either prior to, or at, Athlete Evaluation details of any medication used by the Athlete.
- 4.4.8 The Classification Panel may use video footage and/or any other records (including pre-existing video footage and/or records) to assist it in carrying out Athlete Evaluation. In addition, the Classification Panel may video-record any part of Athlete Evaluation if it considers such recording is necessary to enable it to complete Athlete Evaluation. Notwithstanding the previous statements, the on-water Technical Observation shall be video recorded. All such recordings will be solely used for the purposes of Athlete Evaluation and/or for research and education purposes with the Athlete's prior consent.
- 4.4.9 The Classification outcomes will be published at the Competition by the Chief Classifier or a person authorized by the Chief Classifier.

FAILURE TO ATTEND CLASSIFICATION

- 4.5 If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation, but fails to do so, the Classification Panel will report the fact of the non-attendance to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Athlete evaluation, specify a revised time and date for Athlete Evaluation at the relevant Competition.
- 4.6 If the Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on this second occasion, or is, in the view of the Chief Classifier, unable to provide a reasonable explanation of his or her non-attendance, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

SUSPENSION OF ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 4.7 A Classification Panel may suspend Athlete Evaluation in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 4.7.1 If the Athlete fails to meet any of the requirements detailed in these Rules for Attendance at Athlete Evaluation (see Article 4.4 above);
 - 4.7.2 If the Classification Panel considers the use or non-use of any medication disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
 - 4.7.3 If the Athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation and the Classification Panel considers the absence of such medical documentation will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
 - 4.7.4 If the Athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) which limits or prohibits the Athlete from complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner (eg. pain);

- 4.7.5 If the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given to him/her by a Classification Panel (or a Chief Classifier or the Head of Classification) during the course of Athlete Evaluation to an extent that the Classification Panel considers this means it cannot conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. Such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of Non-Cooperation. (see IPC Classification Code, Article 10);
- 4.7.6 If the Athlete's presentation of his/her abilities is inconsistent with other information made available to the Classification Panel to the extent the Panel considers it cannot conduct Athlete evaluation in a fair manner.
- 4.8 If a Classification Panel suspends an Athlete Evaluation the following steps will be taken:
- 4.8.1 the Classification Panel will explain the reason for the suspension to the Athlete and the Athlete's National Federation and will explain the remedial action required on the part of the Athlete,
- 4.8.2 the Classification Panel will report the fact of the suspension to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier will specify a time, date and place for resumption of the Athlete Evaluation on the condition the Athlete takes remedial action specified by the Classification Panel.
- 4.9 If the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation having taken the remedial action to the Classification Panel's satisfaction, the Panel will attempt to complete the Athlete Evaluation and allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This procedure will be subject to the Classification Panel's right to further suspend Athlete Evaluation according to Article 4.7.
- 4.10 If the Athlete fails to take the remedial action required to the Classification Panel's satisfaction and within the time specified by the Chief Classifier, the Panel will terminate the Athlete Evaluation and ICF Paracanoe will designate the Athlete as being "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) within the ICF Paracanoe Athlete Classification Master List. This designation will preclude the Athlete from Competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed. ICF Paracanoe will stipulate from time to time how this designation affects performance recognition.
- 4.11 The Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to further investigation regarding Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to Article Nine.

Observation Assessment

- 4.12 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observational Assessment following completion of Physical and Technical Assessment in order that the Athlete can be allocated a Sport Class, the provisions regarding Observation Assessment will apply.
- 4.13 Pending completion of Observation Assessment, the Athlete will be allocated a Sport Class with a Tracking Code:

- 4.13.1 If the Athlete has entered the relevant Competition with Sport Class Status New (N), the Athlete will be allocated the Tracking Code Competition New Status (CNS);
- 4.13.2 If the Athlete has entered the relevant Competition with Sport Class Status Review (R), the Athlete will be allocated the Tracking Code Competition Review Status (CRS);
- 4.14 An Athlete will retain the Sport Class and Tracking Code until Observation Assessment is satisfactorily complete.

OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND FIRST APPEARANCE

- 4.15 Observation Assessment, if required by the Classification Panel is conducted during an Athlete's first appearance.
- 4.16 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an event during a recognized Competition. First Appearance in one Event within a Sport Class shall apply to all other Events within the same Sport Class, except if otherwise stipulated in the Appendix to these Rules.
- 4.17 After satisfactorily completing Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel will allocate the Athlete a Sport Class and designate the Athlete with a Sport Class Status. The Tracking Code will then be removed.

5.0 ARTICLE FIVE - SPORT CLASS & SPORT CLASS STATUS

5.1 A Sport Class is a sporting competition category allocated to an Athlete following Athlete Evaluation. It is allocated based upon the existence of an Eligible Impairment and compliance with the Minimal Disability Criteria, and the degree to which Impairment impacts upon sport performance.

SPORT CLASS

5.2 A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel following Athlete Evaluation. A Sport Class cannot be allocated to an Athlete in any other circumstances.

5.3 The decision of the Classification Panel to allocate a Sport Class is final and subject to challenge only as prescribed in Article Seven and Article Eight of these Rules.

5.4 A Sport Class that enables an Athlete to compete in the sport of ICF Paracanoe will be allocated if that Athlete has an Eligible Impairment which complies with the Minimum Disability Criteria set by ICF Paracanoe. The requirements regarding Eligible Impairment and Minimum Disability Criteria are detailed in the Appendix to these Rules.

5.5 If an Athlete does not have an eligible Impairment or has an Eligible Impairment that does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, he/she will not be eligible to compete within the sport of ICF Paracanoe. If an Athlete is not eligible to compete he/she will be allocated a Sport Class "Not Eligible" (see Article Six).

5.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the Sport Class designations as explained in the Appendix to these Rules.

SPORT CLASS STATUS

5.7 An Athlete's Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation again in the future, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to challenge by way of protest as prescribed in Article Seven of these Rules.

5.8 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete will be one of the following:

- Sport Class New (N)
- Sport Class Review (R)
- Sport Class Confirmed (C)

5.9 Athletes with Sport Class Status New (N)

5.9.1 An Athlete will be allocated with Sport Class Status New (N) if a National Federation has allocated an Entry Sport Class to him/her, and the Athlete has not yet completed International Classification.

5.9.2 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any ICF Paracanoe Recognized Competition where Classification is offered.

5.10 ATHLETES WITH SPORT CLASS STATUS REVIEW (R)

5.10.1 A Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) if he/she has completed Athlete Evaluation and been allocated a Sport Class, but the Panel believes further Athlete Evaluation will be required before the Athlete can be designated as Sport Class Confirmed (C). This may be, for a range of reasons, for example, because the Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment(s), or, given his/her age, has Impairments that may not have stabilized.

5.10.2 Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Review (R) if that athlete is entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Article Six).

5.10.3 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at a Recognized Competition where Classification is offered, save where the provisions in these Rules relating to the Fixed Review Date Apply (see Article 5.12-15).

5.10.4 The Sport Class of any Athlete with Sport Class Review (R) may be subject to Protest by a National Federation as prescribed in Article Seven of these Rules.

5.11 ATHLETES WITH SPORT CLASS STATUS CONFIRMED (C)

5.11.1 A Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if he/she has completed Athlete Evaluation and has been allocated a Sport Class, and the Panel is satisfied the Athlete's Impairment and/or Activity Limitations are sufficiently stable such that the Athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed.

5.11.2 Sport Class Status Confirmed may not be allocated if the Classification Panel consists of only one Classifier.

5.11.3 Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if the Athlete is not entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Article Six).

5.11.4 An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo Athlete evaluation prior to competing at any Competition.

5.11.5 The Sport Class of any Athlete who enters a Competition with a Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) may be subject to Protest pursuant to the provisions in Articles 7.24-7.26 of these Rules relating to Protests under Exceptional Circumstances.

FIXED REVIEW DATE

- 5.12 A Classification Panel that allocates Sport Class Status Review may also, if it considers appropriate to do so, nominate a “Fixed Review Date”.
- 5.13 If a Fixed Review Date is set in this manner, then:
- 5.13.1 the Athlete will not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation at any Competition prior to the Fixed Review Date; and,
- 5.13.2 the Athlete will retain the Sport Class assigned to the Athlete and be permitted to compete with that Sport Class.
- 5.14 The Athlete may, at his/her request, attend Athlete evaluation before the Fixed Review Date pursuant to the Medical Review Process described in these Rules (see Article 5.19-5.24).
- 5.15 The Fixed Review Date will be confirmed by the Head of Classification.

CHANGES TO SPORT CLASS CRITERIA

- 5.16 If ICF Paracanoe changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendix to these Rules, then-
- 5.16.1 ICF Paracanoe may re-assign any Athlete with Sport Class Confirmed with Sport Class Review in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation; or,
- 5.16.2 ICF Paracanoe may remove the Fixed Review Date for an Athlete in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation at the earliest available opportunity; and,
- 5.17 In both instances the relevant National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

ERRORS REGARDING SPORT CLASS STATUS

- 5.18 If the Head of Classification believes, on reasonable grounds, an Athlete has been designated with a Sport Class Status in manifest error and/or in clear breach of these Rules, he/she shall:
- 5.18.1 advise the Athlete and his/her National Federation as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief; and,
- 5.18.2 immediately amend the Athlete’s Sport Class Status, and advise the Athlete and the relevant National Federation. ICF Paracanoe will make the appropriate amendment to the ICF Paracanoe Athlete Classification List.

MEDICAL REVIEW: APPLICATION TO UNDERGO ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 5.19 An Athlete who has reason to believe that his/her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the profile for his/her Sport Class should have his/her Sport Class reviewed. The means by which this can take place is referred to in these Rules as “the Medical

Review Process” and the means by which a request for such review is referred to as “a Medical Review Request”.

- 5.20 Only a National Federation may make a Medical Review Request. A Medical Review Request cannot be made by an Athlete.
- 5.21 A Medical Review Request may be made if an athlete has been allocated:
 - 5.21.1 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), or
 - 5.21.2 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R), if the Athlete has been allocated a Fixed Review Date.
- 5.22 A Medical Review Request must be made by completing the IPC Medical Review Request Form and by following its instructions. The Athlete and his/her National Federation must ensure the Medical Review Request abides by the following provisions:
 - 5.22.1 it must explain the Athlete’s relevant Impairment has changed since the last Athlete Evaluation to an extent that the Athlete’s Sport Class might not be accurate anymore;
 - 5.22.2 it must be completed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation;
 - 5.22.3 A non-refundable fee must be paid.
- 5.23 Each Medical Review Request will be reviewed and assessed by the Head of Classification, together with any third parties deemed appropriate.
- 5.24 If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete’s Sport Class Status will be amended from Confirmed to Review; or the Athlete’s Fixed Review Date will be set aside; and the Athlete will be requested to undertake Athlete Evaluation at the next available opportunity.

PROVISION INVOLVING MULTIPLE SPORT CLASSES

- 5.25 IPC’s and ICF Paracanoe’s general principle is that an Athlete is allocated one Sport Class only, which is based upon Physical Impairment.
- 5.26 The Model of Best Practice on Choice of Sport Class for Athlete’s with Multiple Impairments (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) should be considered by any Athlete who believes he/she is eligible for more than one Sport Class.

6.0 ARTICLE SIX - RULES REGARDING ATHLETES WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

- 6.1 An Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment, and it must comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria set by ICF Paracanoeing in order to be eligible to compete. If a Classification Panel determines an Athlete does not have such Eligible Impairment, and/or that Eligible Impairment does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, that Athlete will not be eligible to compete.
- 6.2 If a Classification Panel determines an Athlete is not eligible to compete the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 6.3 If a Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), the Athlete will be required to undergo a second Athlete Evaluation by a second separate Classification Panel either at that Competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. Pending this second assessment the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with a Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be eligible to compete before re-assessment by a Classification Panel.
- 6.4 If there is no opportunity for a separate Athlete Evaluation to be undertaken at that Competition, ICF Paracanoe will take all reasonable steps to ensure the second Athlete Evaluation is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.5 If a second Classification Panel confirms the Athlete is not eligible, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition or any future Competitions. The Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C). There is no further right to Protest unless made under Exceptional Circumstances pursuant to Articles 7.24-7.26
- 6.6 A National Federation may request an Athlete Evaluation for a member Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but only by way of a Medical Review Request as defined in these Rules.
- 6.7 While an Athlete with Sport Class NE will not be eligible to compete within the sport of ICF Paracanoe, it will not affect his/her ability to compete in other Para-sports, subject to their rules of Classification.
- 6.8 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of ICF Paracanoeing.

7 ARTICLE SEVEN - PROTESTS

- 7.1 The term “Protest” used in these Rules refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the allocation of a Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.2 A National Federation may make a protest in respect of a Sport Class of any Athlete who entered the relevant competition where Classification is offered with either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 7.3 The decision which is the subject of the Protest is referred to in this part of the Rules as “the Protested Decision”, and the Athlete in respect of whose Sport Class the Protest is made is referred to as “the Protested Athlete”.
- 7.4 No National Federation may make a protest in respect of any Athlete who entered the relevant Competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 7.5 The Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition may make a protest in respect of any Athlete regardless of their Sport Class Status pursuant to the provisions contained in these Rules regarding Protests under Exceptional Circumstances (see Articles 7.24-7.26).
- 7.6 An Athlete’s Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual Competition, unless an additional protest is made pursuant to the provisions concerning Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 7.7 The National Federation making a protest is responsible for ensuring all Protest process requirements are observed.

PROTEST SUBMISSIONS

- 7.8 A protest may only be submitted by a National Federation. An Athlete cannot submit a Protest.
- 7.9 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated by ICF Paracanoe for the relevant Competition, will be the person authorized to receive Protests on behalf of ICF Paracanoe.
- 7.10 If a Classification decision is published during the Classification Evaluation Period, the National Federation must make a protest within two (2) hours of the Classification decision being published. If a Protest is made during a Competition following completion of an Athlete’s Observation in Competition, the Protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the Protested Decision being published.
- 7.11 Protests must be made by way of a designated Protest Form which will be made available by ICF Paracanoe at the relevant Competition. The Protest form will prescribe certain required information and documentation that must be submitted with the Protest form. This will include the following:
- 7.11.1 Name, Nation and Event of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;

- 7.11.2 The details of the Protested Decision;
 - 7.11.3 An explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis upon which the National Federation believes the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 7.11.4 All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest;
 - 7.11.5 The signature of the authorized representative of the National Federation (eg. Team Leader); and
 - 7.11.6 A Protest Fee of 200 euros
- 7.12 Upon receipt of the completed Protest form, the Chief Classifier will conduct a review of the Protest submission. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not made bona fide or is based upon mere assertion without credible supporting evidence and/or the Protest submission is otherwise not in compliance with these Rules, the Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the National Federation who lodged the Protest as soon as is practicable. The Protest Fee will be retained by ICF Paracanoe.
- 7.13 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the protesting National Federation may re-submit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances. If a National Federation re-submits a Protest, all protest procedural requirements will apply. A second Protest fee must be paid.

RESOLVING A PROTEST

- 7.14 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Classification Panel to conduct an Athlete Evaluation of the Protested Athlete. This Classification Panel is referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 7.15 A Protest Panel shall comprise two Classifiers. Only if practicable given all the circumstances of the Competition, the Protest Panel should comprise Classifiers of equal or greater level of experience as those who comprised the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision.
- 7.16 The Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision. Further, it should not include any person who has been a member of any Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation of the Protested Athlete within a period of eighteen (18) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision.
- 7.17 ICF Paracanoe will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

- 7.18 The Protest Panel will conduct the Athlete Evaluation of the Protested Athlete according to the provisions concerning Athlete Evaluation in these Rules.
- 7.19 The Protest Panel may make enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier, if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner. In addition, it may seek medical, sport, technical or scientific expertise in its conduct of Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.20 The Protest Panel will conclude Athlete Evaluation and, if appropriate, allocate a Sport Class. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.21 If the Protest is upheld and the Sport Class of the Protested Athlete is changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the National Federation. If the Protest is not upheld and the Sport Class is not changed, the Protest Fee will be retained by ICF Paracanoe.
- 7.22 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest. According to Article 6.3, the Athlete is given the opportunity to a re-assessment if the Sport Class allocated by the Protest Panel is Not Eligible.
- 7.23 The consequences of an Athlete changing Sport Class after the resolution of a Protest during Competition on medals, records and results are detailed in the Model of Best Practice on Sport Class Changes following First Appearance (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

PROTESTS UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 7.24 A Protest in Exceptional Circumstances may be made in respect of an Athlete if the Chief Classifier believes that because of exceptional circumstances, the Athlete should undertake Athlete Evaluation in order to review his/her Sport Class.
- 7.25 Examples of Exceptional Circumstances that may arise to warrant an Athlete participating in an Athlete Evaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 7.25.1 An obvious and permanent change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete;
- 7.25.2 An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
- 7.25.3 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; or
- 7.25.4 Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent Evaluation.
- 7.26 The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:

- 7.26.1 The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and his/her National Federation that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
- 7.26.2 The Chief Classifier will provide a written summary of the reasons for the making of the Protest. At a minimum, it shall explain why the Chief Classifier believes the Athlete's Sport Class appears to be inconsistent with the Athlete's perceived Impairment(s) and/or Activity Limitations and these Rules;
- 7.26.3 The Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 7.26.4 The process for making such a Protest shall be the same as that stated in these Rules in respect of Protests made by National Federations except the Chief Classifier is not required to pay a Protest Fee.

PROVISIONS WHERE NO PROTEST PANEL IS AVAILABLE

- 7.27 If a Protest is made and accepted at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition (because, for example, it is not possible to form an appropriately constituted Protest Panel), the following provisions will apply:
 - 7.27.1 If the Athlete has been allocated Sport Class Confirmed (C), it will be amended to Sport Class Status Review (R);
 - 7.27.2 The Athlete will be permitted (or required) to compete in his/her current Sport Class pending the resolution of the Protest.
 - 7.27.3 ICF Paracanoe will take all reasonable steps to ensure the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity, for example, at the next Competition the Protested Athlete intends to compete and where International Classification is offered.

8.0 ARTICLE EIGHT - APPEALS

- 8.1 An Appeal is a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 8.2 If a National Federation believes an unfair decision has been made pursuant to these Rules, it may apply to have the decision set aside until the conclusion of the Appeal procedure.
- 8.3 A decision will be considered unfair, if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in these Rules in Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it should be set aside.
- 8.4 Appeals must be submitted in written form to the ICF Jury during a Competition or to the ICF Executive Committee outside of Competition.

8.5 The outcome of an Appeal will be that either the relevant decision is upheld, or is set aside. An Appeal Decision cannot amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.

9.0 ARTICLE NINE - INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

9.1 Intentional Misrepresentation is a violation of these Rules and will be investigated and potentially sanctioned as provided for in the IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

MISREPRESENTATION DURING ATHLETE EVALUATION

9.2 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his/her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Physical Impairment to a Classification Panel in the course of Athlete evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

9.2.1 If an Athlete uses a boat type, or is in position in the boat or uses adaptive equipment which was not the same as when the Athlete presented for the On-water Technical Observation Assessment, the Athlete shall have misrepresented himself/herself and disqualification from the Competition will result.

9.2.2 Every Athlete is responsible to inform the ICF Head of Classification of any equipment or position changes which may affect his/her Sport Class. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the Competition.

MISREPRESENTATION AFTER ALLOCATION OF CONFIRMED SPORT CLASS

9.3 If following the allocation of a Sport Class, an Athlete undertakes any form of corrective treatment (a “medical intervention”), and the Athlete (or any other Participant) knows (or should know) the medical intervention was intended to result in improved sport performance, the Athlete must provide details of the medical intervention to the Head of Classification at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If the Athlete’s Sport Class is later changed because the Athlete’s Sport Class is later changed because the Athlete’s sporting performance has improved as a result (in whole or in part) of the medical intervention, but the athlete failed to disclose the medical intervention to the Head of Classification, the Athlete will have committed Intentional Misrepresentation.

ASSISTING INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

9.4 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who knowingly assists, covers up or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves have committed Intentional Misrepresentation.

10 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(to be completed)

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2

