

Introduction: Classification is the process that determines which athletes are eligible to compete in a sport and how they will be grouped together due to their limitation in activities resulting from their impairment. Classification is sport specific and it minimizes the impact of the athlete’s impairment on their sport performance.

Classification is a set of procedures for the functional assessment of athletes and the allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The assessment of whether or not an athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport, the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status is undertaken by a classification panel. International Classification panels include a minimum of two International Classifiers, but a National Classification can be done by one Classifier. Classifiers are trained experts: physiotherapists or physicians, and have a complimentary knowledge about impairments and their impact on the respective sports. Classifier’s qualifications and required competencies are determined by World Archery.

Eligible Impairment: The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has determined 10 eligible impairments for classification. World Archery has determined that six of these impairments are eligible for classification in Archery.

ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS FOR PARA ARCHERY

IMPAIRMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
Impaired Muscle Power	Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.	Spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
Impaired Passive Range of Movement	Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.	Arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilization or trauma affecting a joint.
Limb Deficiency	Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma or congenital limb deficiency.	Amputation above the wrist or above the ankle, limbs missing from birth.
Hypertonia	Athletes with Hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

Ataxia	Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
Vision Impairment	Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced, or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.	Vision Impairments include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

Non eligible conditions IPC Classification Code: International Standard for Eligible Impairment (Sept. 2016) Athletes who have a health condition or impairment that does not have an Eligible Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in para sport. These include those that primarily:

- Cause pain (e.g. myofascial pain dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome)
- Cause fatigue (e.g. chronic fatigue syndrome)
- Cause hypermobility or hypotonia (e.g. Ehlers-Danlos syndrome)
- Psychological or psychogenic in origin (conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder)

This is not a complete list of ineligible health conditions. A complete list is available in the IPC Classification Code and associated documents. To say that someone is “not eligible” does not mean they do not have a disability. It means that they may have a condition that is excluded by the IPC list of eligible conditions and/or they do not fit the criteria established by World Archery.

Minimum Impairment Criteria: For World Archery, the Minimal Impairment Criteria is a loss of a minimum of 25 points.

Sport Classes: A Sport Class groups athletes with a similar activity limitation together for competition, so that they can compete equitably. A Sport Class does not necessarily comprise athletes with the same Eligible Impairment. If different impairments cause similar activity limitation, athletes with these impairments are allowed to compete together.

Determining in which Sport Class should the athlete compete is a multi-staged process, consisting of a physical assessment followed by an observation in Competition before final Sport Class is allocated. In World Archery, there are 6 Sport Classes: W1, W2, Standing, VI 1, VI 2/3 (Visually Impaired) and NE (Non Eligible). Non Eligible athletes either do not have an eligible impairment or have not reached the Minimal Impairment Criteria for Classification.

W1 CLASS DESCRIPTION

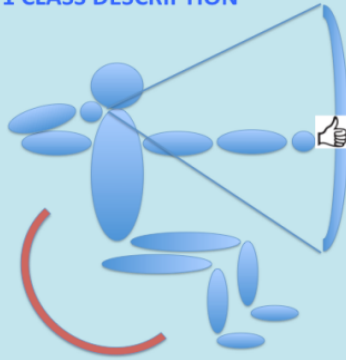
W1 class athlete represents a para archer who demonstrates functional impairments in at least three limbs and the trunk. A total minimum of 85 points distributed as noted below will be required for a W1 classification.

The minimum standard of 50 points loss in lower limb as per W2 category

AND a further 25 points in the upper limbs.

AND a minimum of 10 points will be required in the trunk.

All W1 athletes are required to shoot from a wheelchair



A W2 para archer will have paraplegia or comparable disability

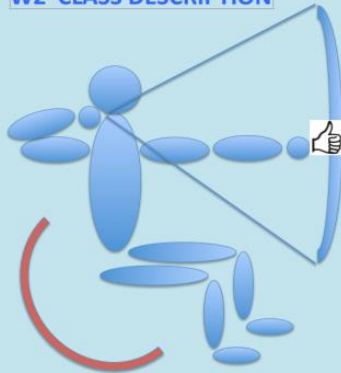
Athletes in this class display minimal or no limitations in upper extremity strength, range of motion, or coordination.

Because of differing levels of spinal cord involvement or bilateral above knee amputation stump lengths, athletes deemed eligible for this class display variable trunk impairment levels.

W2 athletes may shoot from a wheelchair with a minimum loss of 50 points in the lower limbs

W2 class para archers shoot in either the open compound or open recurve shooting class.

W2 CLASS DESCRIPTION

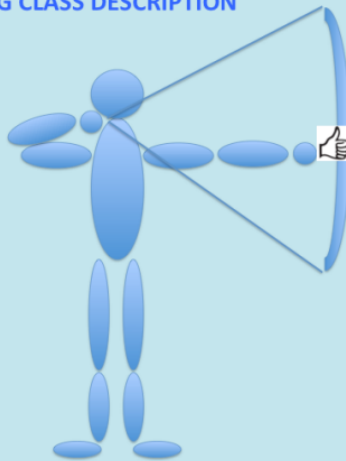


STANDING CLASS DESCRIPTION

The minimum eligibility standard for this class is a loss of 25 points in both (not each) lower or upper limbs

This class generally includes otherwise non-impaired athletes who have sustained amputation to the distal 1/3° of the lower extremity (above the ankle); the distal 1/3° of the forearm (above the wrist).

In rare cases para archers who use their lower extremities to shoot may be included in this class.



Status: Confirmed status (C)

Para archers with an eligible amputation, confirmed complete spinal cord injury, or other conditions deemed to be permanent or unchanging by the classification panel may be recorded as confirmed status.

Review status (R)

If there are any changes made to the list of eligible and/or not eligible conditions, any athletes who have been classified based on a condition that is no longer eligible will be assigned review status and will be required to submit an application for a new classification as per the normal process using the Medical Intake Form. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any International Competition.

Review status with fixed review date (FRD)

When a review status has been assigned to a classification, the classification panel will set and record the Fixed Review Date. The classification status will expire as of the Fixed Review Date and the athlete must attend reclassification **before** being eligible to compete in para archery events. If this date falls within the dates of an International Tournament, the review must be completed before the qualification round starts. Based on the acuteness and/or changing nature of the medical condition a review may be recommended at 2 years following the initial classification.

Para archers should not consider review status as suggesting that their condition or disability is being questioned. Review status helps the classification team assure that the athlete is classified appropriately. Due to, for example, the progressive nature of some impairments and their impact on certain activities, athletes are sometimes classified a number of times throughout their career. Also, when the medical condition of an athlete changes, athletes need to inform the sport and ask for re-assessment.

Adaptive Equipment: Athletes are allowed to use adaptive equipment to level the playing field. Classifiers do not give equipment to enhance athlete performance. If an athlete is allowed to use a piece of adaptive equipment, it will be on their Classification Card after a National or International Classification. A list of adaptive equipment allowed is found in Book 3, Appendix 2 of the World Archery Rules. The Adaptive Equipment Resource Guide is a comprehensive guide for Judges, Coaches, and Athletes explaining what is and is not allowed. It also explains the rationale and how a Judge will assess a piece of equipment.

Classification of the Athlete: If an athlete wishes to be Classified, there are several steps they must follow. For a National Classification, they must submit a Medical Intake Form (MIF) to their National Federation and undergo a physical assessment by a National Classifier. For an International Classification, they must have a typed MIF in English submitted by their National Federation 30 days before a World Ranking Event or higher to the WA Classification Committee. Once their MIF is accepted, they will receive an appointed time for their physical assessment prior to the tournament. The athlete can bring a Coach with them or a representative if they do not speak English. After their physical

assessment and shooting observation, they will be assigned a Class, Status and what adaptive equipment they are allowed to use. They will be given a Classification Card that will have this information as well as their picture, their WA number and pictures of any unusual adaptive equipment. An electronic copy of the card is acceptable and the athlete will need to show it to the Judges at equipment inspection.