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Classification – Para Powerlifting

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CLASSIFICATION AND PARA POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

WHAT IS CLASSIFICATION

Classification is an assessment process which determines which athletes are eligible to compete in any given Paralympic sport according to that sports specific rules and regulations.

The objective of classification is to minimise the impact of an athletes impairment* on their performance in any Paralympic Sport and ensure fairness for all competitors.

CLASSIFICATION IN PARA POWERLIFTING

Classification is a physical assessment which confirms a **presented impairment is aligned with the medical diagnostic information submitted** and meets the minimum impairment criteria outlined in the World Para Powerlifting Classification rules and regulation. Evidence may have to be provided and signed by a qualified medical doctor unless World Para Powerlifting decide that the impairment is sufficiently obvious.

In the UK National Classification guides athletes along the appropriate participation pathway and where necessary informs athletes as to what they need to add to their pre-assessment classification medical documentation

CLASSIFICATION AND PARA POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

WHY GO THROUGH CLASSIFICATION

To understand what you are eligible for.

BWL facilitate two main pathways which National Classification influences your eligibility for:

- National and International representation
- National representation only

National and International representation

- Access to all National competition where you are eligible to win, receive medals and hold records
- Eligibility to represent Great Britain at recognised World Para Powerlifting competitions (subject to achieving the necessary performance standards at National events)

National Representation

- Access to all national competitions and eligible to win, receive medals and hold records nationally



CLASSIFICATION AND PARA POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

HOW TO DO IT

Follow the steps below:

1. Submit all necessary classification documentation to BWL ahead of national classification*
2. Attend national classification

*Required for registration and licensing with IPC World Para Powerlifting which needs to take place prior to attending National or International Classification assessment

Documentation required:

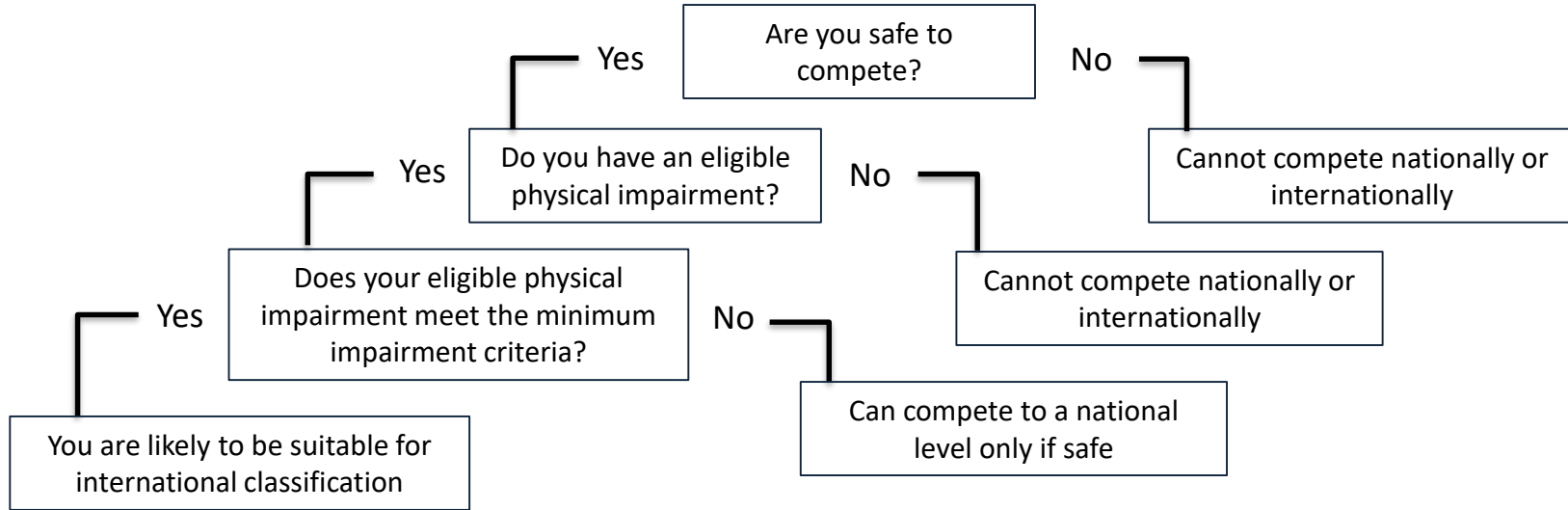
- Medical diagnostics form
- Athlete eligibility consent form
- Passport scan pdf
- Passport photo (smart phone)
- Letter from GP – Safe to compete/take part

We need this information to pre-assess in case more information is needed to add clarity and avoid confusion/limit disappointment



CLASSIFICATION AND PARA-POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

ELIGIBILITY FLOW DIAGRAM



Note: Pain alone is not an eligible impairment. If pain prevents the assessment from taking place an athlete will be deemed ineligible – please see later slides for non-eligible impairments.

CLASSIFICATION AND PARA-POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

IMPAIRMENT	EXAMPLES OF HEALTH CONDITIONS LIKELY TO CAUSE THE IMPAIRMENT
Hypertonia	stroke, multiple sclerosis, brain injury, cerebral palsy
Ataxia	multiple sclerosis, brain injury,
Athetosis	chorea, athetosis e.g. from brain trauma or stroke
Limb deficiency	amputation resulting from trauma
Impaired passive range of movement	trauma/surgery, joint fusion, scoliosis
Impaired muscle power	spinal cord injury, muscle wasting, brachial plexus injury, palsies
Leg length difference	congenital or traumatic causes of bone shortening in one leg
Short Stature	achondroplasia, pituitary gland dysfunction

CLASSIFICATION AND PARA-POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

IMPAIRMENT	ASSESSMENTS
Hypertonia	Must be clearly detectable with a minimum of grade two on the Ashworth scale in at least one lower limb.
Ataxia and Athetosis	Athletes must demonstrate an observable involvement in one or both lower limbs. They must be observable during athlete evaluation and there must be an obvious loss of function.
Limb deficiency	Unilateral amputation as a minimum through the ankle joint with an absence of the calcaneus or a congenital limb deficiency at the same minimum level.
Impaired passive range of movement	Decrease of 60 degrees in hip flexion and extension, extension defect of 30 degrees of the knee joint in any position, severely reduced mobility of a permanent nature and/or as in scoliosis measuring over 60 degrees by the Cobb method.
Impaired muscle power	Twenty points decrease in muscular strength in one or both lower limbs during: ankle dorsi and plantar flexion, ankle inversion and eversion, knee flexion and extension, hip flexion extension adduction and abduction.
Leg length difference	A minimum of 7cm difference between the left and right leg.
Short Stature	Standing height must be less than or equal to: 145cm for male athletes and 140cm for female athletes.



CLASSIFICATION AND PARA-POWERLIFTING PATHWAYS

NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS (not limited

IMPAIRMENT
Vision Impairment
Intellectual Impairment
Pain
Hearing Impairment
Low Muscle Tone
Hypermobility of joints
Joint instability
Impaired muscle endurance
Impaired motor reflex functions
Impaired cardiovascular functions
Impaired respiratory functions
Impaired metabolic functions
Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor preservation

If in the course of determining if an athlete has an eligible impairment or health condition, World Para-Powerlifting will decide if the condition could be unsafe for the athlete to compete or there is a risk to the athletes health.



CLASSIFICATION AND PARA POWERLIFTING

Key Documents:

- Classification Rules and Regulations

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171230072004367_World%2BPara%2BPowerlifting_Classification%2BRules%2Band%2BRegulations_Jan%2B2018.pdf

- Medical Diagnostic Form

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171106173835565_WPPO_2017_11_01%2BPI%2BMedical%2BDiagnostics%2BForm%2BNEW.pdf

- Athlete Eligibility Agreement Form

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/180920115204093_2018_09_18%2BAthlete%2BEvaluation%2BAgreement%2BForm.pdf

Please highlight the link you want to
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