

FIS Para Alpine and Para Nordic

Implementation of the new VI Classification System – Athlete FAQs

1. When will the new Sport Classes be used in competition?

From 01 July 2024 (2024/25 Season).

This means all athletes will need to be classified under the new criteria prior to the start of the 2024/25 season (see next Q+A's for further information).

2. Which Sport Class will I compete in throughout the next season (2023/24)?

The current classification system will remain in place for competition for the 2023/24 season, and therefore you will compete in the B1-3 Sport Class allocated to you during your last classification.

3. I am a new athlete attending my first international classification in the 2023/24 season. Under which criteria will I be classified?

You will be classified under the current Sport Class criteria (B1-3) and the new Sport Class criteria (Alpine: AS1-4 or Nordic: NS1-3).

If eligible, you will compete with your B1-3 Sport Class for the 2023/24 season, and then with your AS1-4 or NS1-3 Sport Class for the 2024/25 season.

This will mean that your classification session will take slightly longer this season.

4. I have a Sport Class Status Review (or Review with a fixed review date of 2023 or earlier), meaning I need to be re-classified in the coming season (2023/24). Under which criteria will I be classified?

As with New athletes, you will be classified under the current Sport Class criteria (B1-3), and the new Sport Class criteria (AS1-4 or NS1-3).

You will compete with your B1-3 Sport Class for the 2023/24 season, and then with your AS1-4 or NS1-3 Sport Class for the 2024/25 season.

This will mean that your classification session will take slightly longer this season.

5. I have a Review 2024 (or later) or Confirmed Sport Class Status. When do I need to be classified under the new Sport Class criteria?

All athletes will be invited to undergo classification in the 2023/24 season, regardless of their Sport Class Status. If you have a current B1-3 Sport Class with the Sport Class Status of Review 2024 (or later) or Confirmed, you will be classified under the new Sport Class criteria (AS1-4 or NS1-3) only.

You will compete in your previously assigned B1-3 class for the 2023/24 season, and then with your AS1-4 or NS1-3 Sport Class for the 2024/25 season.

6. I have been classified Not Eligible (NE) Confirmed, but I might meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) of the new classification system. Can I be classified and compete in the 2023/24 season?

Yes.

If you are currently classified Not Eligible (NE) Confirmed, you may attend a classification opportunity and will be classified under the new classification system (AS1-4 or NS1-3) only. If eligible under the new system, you may compete in the 2023/24 season, but in a separate category.

No FIS points will be awarded and therefore athletes meeting the new MIC only will not be eligible to compete at all races.

Competing in the 2023/24 season will, however, help FIS to gather data to calculate the factors for the new Sport Classes in the 2024/25 season.

7. I have a B1-3 Sport Class, but what happens if I do not get classified under the new criteria during the 2023/24 season?

On 01 July 2024, your current Sport Class will be archived in the FIS Para Snow Sports Data Management System (FPDMS). If you did not attend classification in the 2023/24 season, you will be allocated the lowest Sport Class (AS4/NS3) with Sport Class Status New (as it is a new system), meaning you will need to undergo classification prior to your first competition.

8. I am in the B1 Sport Class and am currently required to wear blacked out glasses/goggles when competing. If I am classified AS1/NS1, do I still need to wear blacked out glasses/goggles?

Though the research recommended that blacked out glasses/goggles would be optional for the AS1 and NS1 Sport Classes, based on community feedback, athletes competing in the new AS1 and NS1 Sport Classes (athletes with no light perception/light perception) will be required to wear blacked out glasses/goggles for the time being.

9. Do I need to provide a new Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) before classification?

Yes, all athletes will need to ask their Ophthalmologist or Optometrist (at the discretion of FIS) to complete a new MDF, the template of which is currently being modified to meet the requirements of the new system. The modified MDF will give more guidance to your Ophthalmologist/Optometrist on what supporting documents need to be submitted to confirm your diagnosis.

FIS will circulate the modified MDF to the National Ski Associations once available.

10. Where will my new Sport Class be recorded?

The Classification Master List contains an athletes current Sport Class. All new Sport Classes will be recorded on the Classification Form and on the athlete's profile in the FIS Para Snow Sports Data Management System (FPDMS). From 01 July 2024, all B1-3 Sport Classes will be archived, and the AS1-4 or NS1-3 Sport Classes will appear in the Classification Master List:

[Para Nordic Classification Master List \(fis-ski.com\)](https://www.fis-ski.com/Para-Nordic-Classification-Master-List)

[Para Alpine Classification Master List \(fis-ski.com\)](https://www.fis-ski.com/Para-Alpine-Classification-Master-List)

11. I only plan to start racing internationally in the 2024 season. With which criteria will I be classified?

With the new classification system being implemented on 01 July 2024 (2024/25 Season), new athletes entering the system in the 2024/25 season will be classified under the new AS1-4 or NS1-3 Sport Class criteria only.

12. Will the tests carried out during classification be the same as they are now?

The tests used to measure visual acuity and visual field will remain the same as how VI Classification is carried out today, with the exception that measurements will be done with both eyes open. There will also be some additional grating cards used for visual acuity measurements to reach 3.5 logMAR.

FIS remain committed to continuing the research, and therefore if other ways to further improve classification and increase objectivity become widely available, this area will be explored.

13. If I am classified under the current and the new criteria at the same time, can I protest one, or both outcome(s)?

Yes, if you have a reasonable objection to the allocated Sport Class(s), the provisions around Protests (Part Six: Protests), and all other Classification Rules apply to either or both outcomes.

14. Why is the new classification system not already being implemented in competition the 2023/24 season?

If FIS were to implement the new classification system on 01 July 2023, ALL VI athletes would need to attend classification prior to their first competition of the season. Logistically, this would be very difficult for all athletes to accomplish.

Additionally, there are currently no factors calculated for the new Sport Classes. The one-year transition period gives athletes time to be classified for their new Sport Class throughout the 2023/24 season and allows time to gather data to calculate the new factors, ready for full implementation from 01 July 2024.

Note: If there are any discrepancies between this FAQ document and the FIS Para Alpine and Para Nordic Classification Rules and Regulations, the provisions of the rules will apply.