

FIS Para Nordic Classifier Training and Certification Pathway

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What is a classifier?

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Para Nordic Classifiers may be former Athletes or coaches, sport scientists, physical educators, or medical professionals, all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct all, or specific parts, of Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the FIS Para Nordic Classification Rules and Regulations.

In Para Nordic, there are two types of Classifier: A Medical Classifier or a Technical Classifier. A Classification Panel consists of two Classifiers, at least one of which must be a Medical Classifier.

A Classifier's role as a Medical Classifier is:

- to conduct Eligible Impairment Assessments and/or Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessments;
- To apply the assessment methods established in the FIS Para Nordic Classification rules properly and consistently; and
- if required, to conduct the Observation Assessment in cooperation with other members of the Classification Panel.

A Classifier's role as a Technical Classifier is:

- to conduct Sport Class Assessments; and
- if required, to conduct the Observation Assessment in cooperation with other members of the Classification Panel.

Classifier Profile

All Classifiers must have:

- a thorough understanding of Para Nordic Skiing and the sports rules, including, but not limited to, the International Competition Rules (ICR) for Para Nordic, Classification Rules and Regulations, and the Equipment Specifications for Para Nordic;
- a thorough understanding the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards and the FIS Code of Ethics;
- the professional qualifications, level of experience and other skills, competencies, and/or abilities as defined under the Medical and/or Technical Classifier profiles; and
- business level written and spoken English.

Medical Classifier Profile

In addition to the criteria listed under the Classifier Profile, Medical Classifiers must have:

- a medical qualification as a physician who has experience in dealing with Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by Para Nordic; or
- a physiotherapy qualification or other related disciplines with experience of individuals with the clinical manifestations of the Eligible Impairments catered for by Para Nordic; and
- a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise in the sport of (adaptive) Nordic skiing.

Technical Classifier Profile

In addition to the criteria listed under the Classifier Profile, Technical Classifiers must have:

- at least a basic knowledge of the activity limitation provoked by the Eligible Impairments in Para Nordic; and
- wide coaching experience or qualification in Para Nordic coaching, physical education, sport sciences, biomechanics, kinesiology, or reputable academic qualification with a working knowledge of Para Nordic.

Ideally, technical classifiers will also have an extensive Para sport background.

Classifier Pathway

The FIS Para Nordic Classifier Pathway consists of four stages:

1. Completion of the [IPC Classification Fundamentals online course](#) (and relevant medical or technical qualification) → Classifier Candidate
2. Successful completion of a Classifier Seminar → Classifier Trainee
3. Successful completion of at least two supervised International Classification Opportunities* → FIS International Classifier
4. Maintenance of FIS International Classifier License

Stage 1: The IPC Classification Fundamentals online course is open to anyone interested in learning more about Classification. It is also a pre-requisite for those intending to follow the pathway to become a Classifier Trainee or an International Classifier. Only those who hold a relevant qualification may be recognised as a Classifier Candidate and eligible to participate in a Classifier Seminar (exceptions may be made for those who only intend on classifying on the national level).

Stage 2: The Classifier Seminar is delivered as either a face-to-face course (usually three days) or as part of a series of online seminars. Upon successful completion of the Classifier Seminar, the participant will be certified as a Classifier Trainee and is expected to have the knowledge and competencies required to carry out national Classification. The status National Classifier is at the discretion of the Classifier Trainees respective National Ski Association (NSA).

Stage 3: Classifier Trainees wishing to continue along the pathway to become an International Classifier must attend at least two International Classification opportunities* within three seasons of attending the Classifier Seminar. The Classifier Trainee may participate in some or all the components of Classification under the supervision of a Classification Panel to develop the necessary Classifier competencies to achieve certification.

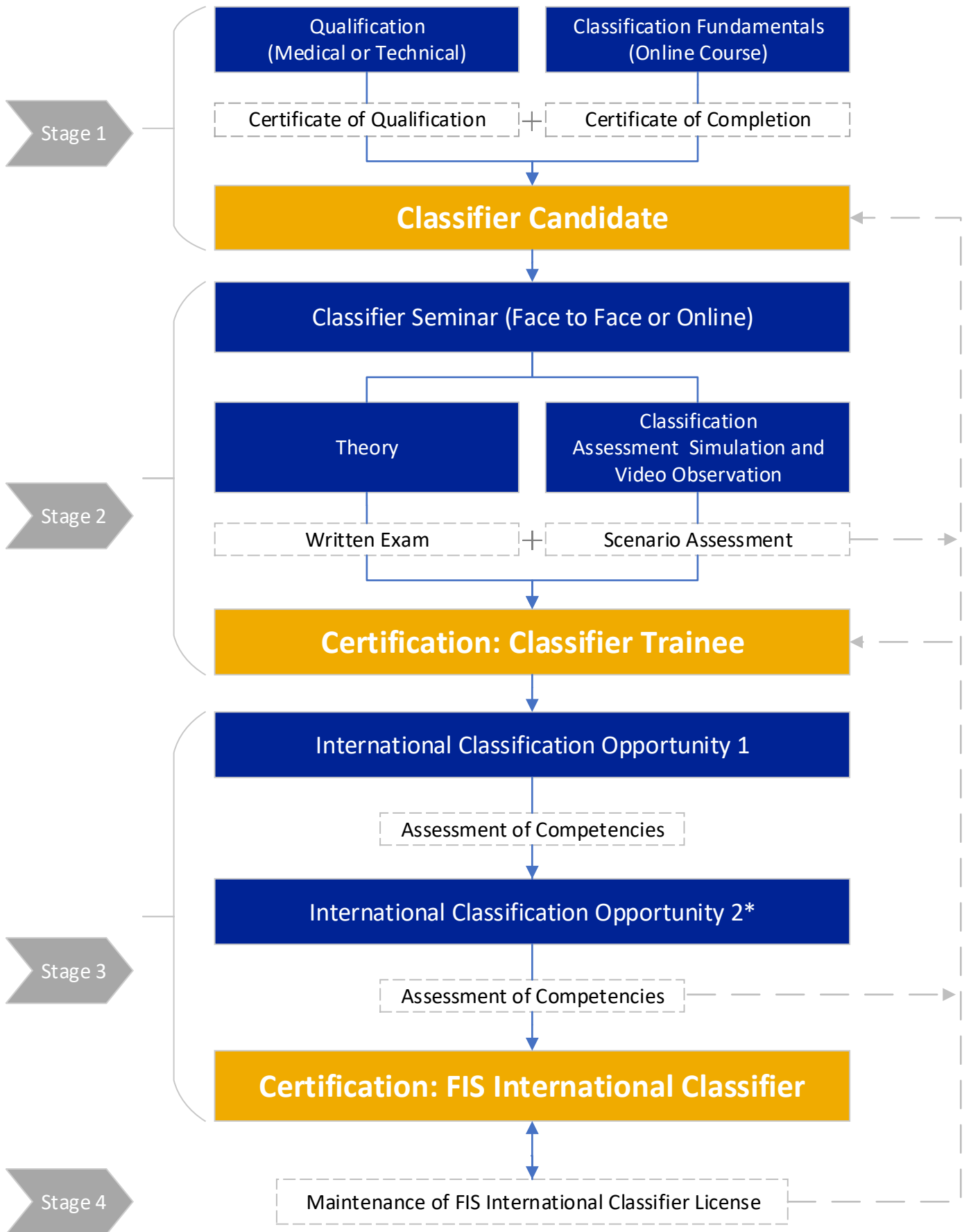
*In exceptional circumstances, Classifier Trainees who show exceptional competencies may be certified after one international Classification opportunity (e.g. an experienced International Classifier of another sport).

Stage 4: Upon certification, International Classifiers must remain active and engaged and continue to demonstrate competencies to maintain their license.

More information about each of the stages can be found below the Classifier Pathway diagram.

For the avoidance of doubt, all costs related to classifier training or recertification is the responsibility of the candidate.

Note: This Classifier pathway does not address Classification for athletes with Vision Impairment(s). A specific programme exists in joint cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and International Blind Sport Association (IBSA).



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Indicates ability to proceed to next stage / maintain license

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Indicates not yet competent to proceed / competencies not maintained

*Classifier Trainees may be required to attend more than 2 Classification Opportunities, or return to any stage of the training pathway, if not yet competent

Stage 1: Steps to becoming a Classifier Candidate

Entry Requirements	N/A
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPC Classification Fundamentals online course
Delivery Method(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-paced, online course
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Paralympic Movement • Learn about the development of Paralympic Classification • Understand the significance of the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards • Understand Classification and the Athlete journey
Assessment Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online quiz
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of the IPC Classification Fundamentals online course plus certificate of relevant qualification (detailed under the profile of a Classifier) leads to the status of Classifier Candidate and becoming eligible to participate in a Classifier Seminar

Stage 2: Steps to becoming a Classifier Trainee

Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds a relevant qualification; and • Has completed the IPC Classification Fundamentals online course
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para Nordic Classifier Seminar
Delivery Method(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face or online, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theoretical sessions - Practical assessment training - Simulated Classification situations - Video observation
Learning Objectives (including, but not limited to)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the role of a Classifier • Understand and apply the conceptual basis of Classification • Have a clear understanding of the FIS Para Nordic Classification Rules and Regulations • Understand and accurately conduct the relevant Physical and/or Technical Assessments for athletes with a Physical Impairment • Understand and accurately conduct Observation Assessment • Sport Class allocation • How to properly communicate Classification outcomes • Understand the risks in Classification • Decision making
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam and scenario assessment
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Participation or Certificate of Achievement if successfully passing the written exam and scenario assessment • Successful candidates should possess the knowledge to classify nationally and may proceed on the pathway to becoming an International Classifier.

Stage 3: Steps to becoming an International Classifier

Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification as Classifier Trainee • Intermediate to good skier • Must have no conflict of interest (see below definition of Conflict of Interest)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two separate FIS Para Nordic International Classification opportunities (Exceptions may be made for those who show exceptional competencies and who may be certified after one international Classification opportunity. E.g. an experienced International Classifier of another sport).
Delivery Method(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of Classification assessments by an Classification Panel, including paperwork, communication, athlete assessment, decision making • Conduct Sport Class Assessments under supervision, including completion of Classification Form(s) • Observation on snow of the classified athletes • Participate in all other classifier activities, e.g., attending pre-event Classification meetings/post event feedback sessions
Learning Objectives (including, but not limited to)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the role of Classifier • Understand and apply the conceptual basis of Classification to a high standard • Know the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for each Impairment Type and where to locate it within the FIS Para Nordic Classification Rules and Regulations accurately and efficiently • Know and be able to complete all relevant assessment methods (medical or technical) for athletes with a Physical Impairment to a high standard of validity and reliability • Know how to conduct Observation Assessment to a high standard • Know how to properly communicate Classification outcomes accurately and efficiently • Understand and demonstrate leadership in the management of risks in Classification • Ability to complete all relevant paperwork accurately and efficiently
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment by competency transcript
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Classifier Trainees will receive a FIS Para Nordic International Classifier certification; and • Be licensed (pending maintenance of license) and eligible for appointment as an International Classifier at FIS International Classification opportunities. • Classifier Trainees not yet meeting the required Classifier competencies may be required to redo all or some parts of the Classifier Pathway prior to certification.

Stage 4: Maintaining License as an International Classifier

To maintain an International Classifier License, a Classifier must:

- Classify at least once every two seasons at an international Classification opportunity;
- Attend the annual Classifier Update; and
- Actively participate in workshops or recertification seminars at the discretion of FIS.

Classifiers may be required to return to any stage of the Classifier Pathway due to inactivity or if Classifier competencies are not maintained.

Obtaining a license after a period of inactivity (more than two seasons)

The recertification process is dependent on the classifier's experience before the period of inactivity and any Classification activities performed during their inactivity.

Inactive Classifiers must provide the FIS Para Nordic Head of Classification (HoC) with reason of absence. The decision on the recertification pathway will be at the discretion of the HoC and FIS.

After longer periods of inactivity, the inactive Classifier may go through the Classifier pathway once again, starting with the Classifier Seminar.

Conflict of Interest

There is an objectively high risk of an actual, perceived, or potential Conflict of Interest arising in circumstances where a person has (or has recently had) a close association or role with an NSA is also involved in Classification.

As such, anyone who holds a position on their national team in a management role or as a physician/physiotherapist or coach/trainer may participate in a Classifier Seminar for the purpose of learning how to classify athletes on a national level but may not proceed past the stage of Classifier Trainee until they no longer hold that position within their team.

Classifier Seminars

FIS will organise a Classifier Seminar at least biannually. NSAs may also request FIS to host Classifier Seminars for the purpose of training National Classifiers at the expense of the NSA. Interest in participating in or organising a FIS Para Nordic Classifier Seminar should be submitted to: ParaNordic@fis-ski.org.

Supporting Resources:

- [FIS Para Nordic Classification Rules and Regulations](#)
- [FIS Para Nordic International Competition Rules \(ICR\)](#)
- [Equipment Specifications for Para Snow Sports](#)
- [FIS Code of Ethics](#)
- [10 Steps to Para Snow Sports Classification](#)
- [IPC Classification Code](#)