



# **PRECISIONS, INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

## **PARA SNOWBOARD**

## **SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE**

**EDITION 2024/25**

Oberhofen, July 2024

## PRECISIONS, INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE 2024/2025

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### FIS Council Meeting: 4th June 2024.

#### 1) Introduction

This document presents the rule changes within the Para Snowboard International Competition Rules (ICR), Classification Rules and Regulations, as well as the Qualification Criteria/Regulations, following the approval of the proposals by the FIS Council on 4th June 2024.

All updated documents are now available on the FIS Website.

#### 2) Fluor Ban Implementation Continues Season 2024-2025

The full fluor wax ban is fully implemented for the 2024/2025 season. The testing will be carried out across all event levels in order to ensure fluor-free competitions.

#### 3) Participation of Russian and Belarussian Athletes in FIS competitions

The current FIS policy, which does not allow the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes and officials at FIS competitions, will remain in effect until further notice.

#### 4) Approved Rule Changes to the International Competition Rules

All approved rule changes can be seen under [Annex 1 - International Competition Rules Para Snowboard](#)

#### 5) Qualification Criteria World Cup and Continental Cup

The Qualification Criteria for season 2024/2025 has been approved and can be found under the following [link](#).

#### 6) Qualification Criteria 2025 World Championships

The Qualification Criteria for the 2025 World Championships has been approved and can be found under the following [link](#).

#### 7) Qualification Regulations 2026 Paralympic Winter Games

The Qualification Regulations have been approved by the FIS Council and will be published once the IPC Governing Board also approves the document.

#### 8) Classification Rules And Regulations

A number of amendments have been made to the Para Snowboard Classification Rules and Regulations to aid interpretation, correct mistakes or include missing criteria.

These amendments are not aimed at changing any criteria or methods of assessment that will impact on an athletes Sport Class, but to reflect the actual process carried out by a panel during Athlete Evaluation.

The full amendments to the Classification Rules and Regulations can be seen together with the two new VI appendices under [Annex 2 - Para Snowboard Classification Rules and Regulations](#)

## Annex 1 - International Competition Rules Para Snowboard

### 206.3 Member National Ski Associations

Each FIS affiliated National Ski Association that organises events in its country which are included in the FIS calendars, ~~has the authority as the~~ retains ownership of the event advertising rights ~~to enter into contracts for their sale~~ provided they enter into a Media Rights Centralisation Agreement (MRCA) for so long as that MRCA remains in full force and effect. In the case of FIS World Cup competitions these rights shall be defined in the Organiser Agreement upon approval of the FIS Council and considering the National Ski Associations responsibilities.

In cases where a National Ski Association organises events outside its own country these FIS Advertising rules also apply.

If an NSA does not enter into an MRCA, FIS shall exclusively be entitled to enter into any agreement concerning the advertising rights of World Cup events awarded to that NSA.

### 208.1.2 *Rights owned by the member National Ski Associations*

Each FIS affiliated National Ski Association that organises events in its country which are included in the annual FIS calendars, ~~has the authority as the~~ retains ownership of the electronic media rights ~~to enter into contracts for the sale of the electronic media rights~~ on those events provided they enter into a Media Rights Centralisation Agreement (MRCA) for so long as that MRCA remains in full force and effect. In cases where a National Ski Association organises events outside its own country, these rules also apply, subject to bi-lateral agreement with the National Ski Association of the country where the event takes place.

If an NSA does not enter into an MRCA, FIS shall exclusively be entitled to enter into any agreement concerning the electronic media rights of World Cup events awarded to that NSA.

304.2.2 If changes are made to an athlete's Sport Class during competition (e.g. following Observation Assessment, IF Protest etc.), these changes come into effect from the next race in which the athlete is entered. A Sport Class change will not occur between different phases of the same race (e.g. Run 1 and Run 2 or Qualification and Finals). Results achieved by the athlete before the Sport Class change comes into effect remain valid.

### 1310.4 Start Signals/Commands

For all single timed events (Snowboard Cross, Banked Slalom) the start signal is as follows:

Ten seconds before the start, the starter will tell each competitor »Ten Seconds«. Five seconds before the start, they shall count »5, 4, 3, 2, 1« and then give the start command »Go«.

If possible, an automatic audible signal is to be used. The starter will let the competitor see the start clock.

It is also possible to start by saying 'Rider Ready – Go'.

For Snowboard Cross Finals, Dual Banked Slalom and Team Events the start command is as follows:

„We are ready for the next Heat, proceed to the Start Gate“. “Enter the Start Gate“ (approximately 30 seconds before the start command).

„Riders ready – attention“ – randomly 1–4 seconds before the doors open (this 1–4 seconds is up to the starter, or in the case of an electronic release device being used, the Starter beginning the random start sequence). During the final start command no coaching is permitted (no coaches present at the start device, no radio information from the course, etc.).

~~1402.1 Vertical drop min 100 m – max 250 m. Vertical drop of the course may be reported in the starting list and final results.~~

~~1402.2-1 The course should have a length of the course on the ground of min 400 m – max 1000 m a minimum ~~of 300 m~~ and a maximum of 600 m. The Course angle average should be 15° (+/- ± 3°) in average steepness / 20—35%. Running time of approximately 30 seconds to 90 seconds. Length of the course may be reported in the starting list and final results.~~

Indoor BSL events may have ~~a minimum vertical drop of 50M m~~ and a minimum course length of 250M m. The length of the course may be reported in the starting list and final results.

1402.2 The ideal BSL bank radius shall be between 8 m and 12 m. Depending on the terrain on which the course is built, the competition Jury may homologate BSL courses with different measurements.

## 1409 Finals Snowboard Cross

There are three formats for the execution of Snowboard Cross Finals

- a) **Traditional:** as defined at 1409.1 where only competitors qualified through qualification/seeding runs can take part.
- b) **Pre-Heat:** as defined at 1409.2 where all competitors that participated in the qualification/seeding runs can take part.
- c) **Without Timed Runs:** as defined at 1409.3 where no timed runs are performed, and competitors are seeded directly in the final Heats.

In all heats where athletes advance automatically to the next round, these athletes may choose to run or to skip that heat.

### 1409.3.2

The Finals for the competitors qualified as per rule 1409.3 will be conducted as follows: The first two/one competitors per Heat advance from round to round as determined by their place of finish in each Heat. Place of finish is determined by the first part of the body or snowboard that crossed the finish line. Whenever possible, a finish line camera (video or photo finish) may be used to clarify the order of finish.

In the event that it is impossible for competitors to be separated by use of a finish line camera, the tie will be broken in favour of the competitor with the higher start position (used in the seeding). Only in the big or small final if it is still impossible to separate the competitors following these steps, the competitors will remain tied.

~~—The competitors who do not advance in 1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 Finals Heats will be grouped according to their placing in the Heat and then ranked within that group according to their seeding position. In any case a competitor who has qualified for a certain group (1/8 final, 1/4 final, etc.) will remain in this group and be ranked there. For example: Once a competitor is qualified for top 16, they will remain for scoring purposes in the top 16 group.~~

~~The competitors who do not advance in their Heats will be grouped into a new Heat bracket. In the 4 competitors per Heat format the competitors who placed 3rd in their Heat will compete against each other and those who placed 4th correspondingly.~~

~~—Competitors who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> in 1/16 Finals will compete for a placing in the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Finals (or Small Finals) for the places 33-64. The competitors who finished 3rd or 4th in 1/8 Finals will compete for a placing in the Semi-Finals and the Finals (or Small Finals) for the places 17-32. Competitors who placed 3rd or 4th in the Quarter Finals will compete for a placing in the Semi-Finals and Finals (or small Finals) for the places 9-16.~~

## 1409.4 Ranking for Final Results

Competitors are ranked according to their place of finish in the final heat (Big Final) and in the consolation round (Small Final). ~~All remaining competitors are ranked according to the round they go out in (e.g. Quarter Finals) and their qualification times within that round.~~ Snowboard Cross will be run according to a single knockout format.

The first competitor (2 competitors per Heat) or the first two competitors (4 competitors per Heat) advance from round to round as determined by their place of finish in each Heat. Place of finish is determined by the first part of the body or Snowboard that crosses the finish line. Whenever possible, a finish line camera (video or photo finish) should be available. Only in the Big or Small Final if it is still impossible to separate the competitors with these steps, the competitors will remain tied. In case of a tie, at the finish line, such tie(s) will be broken after reviewing if available the photo-finish presentation. If a tie still exists, the competitors concerned will be ranked according to the fastest qualification time. In the case where the same qualification time exists (best time out of two runs), the tie will be broken by using the total time of both qualification

runs. If a tie still exists, the competitor with the higher bib number (used in the seeding or the qualification runs) will be scored as first.

The competitors who do not advance in Pre-Heats, 1/16, 1/8 and 1/4 Finals Heats will be grouped according to their placing in the Heat and then ranked within that group according to their qualifying time. In any case a competitor who has qualified for a certain group (1/8 final, 1/4 final, etc.) will remain in this group and be ranked there. For example: Once a competitor is qualified for top 16, they will remain for scoring purposes in the top 16 group.

### 1410.3 Finals for race format with four athletes per Heat and pre-Heats

#### 1-4 Competitors (1 Heat)

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	2	3	4

#### 5-6 Competitors (1 Heat, 1 Pre-Heat)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	3	4	5	6

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	2	1 and 2 POSITION Qualified from Pre-Heat #1 ranked by Qualification time	

#### 7-8 Competitors (4 Heats)

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	4	5	8
2	2	3	6	7

#### 9-10 Competitors (4 Heats, 1 Pre-Heat)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	7	8	9	10

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	4	5	2 POSITION Pre-Heat #1
2	2	3	6	1 POSITION Pre-Heat #1

11-12 Competitors (4 Heats, 2 Pre-Heats)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	5	8	9	12
2	6	7	10	11

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	4	<u>1 and 2 POSITION Qualified from Pre-Heat #1, ranked by Qualification time</u>	
2	2	3	<u>1 and 2 POSITION Qualified from Pre-Heat #2, ranked by Qualification time</u>	

13-16 Competitors (8 Heats)

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	8	9	16
2	4	5	12	13
3	3	6	11	14
4	2	7	10	15

17-18 Competitors (8 Heats, 1 Pre-Heat)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	15	16	17	18

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)

1	1	8	9	2 POSITION Pre-Heat #1
2	4	5	12	13
3	3	6	11	14
4	2	7	10	1 POSITION Pre-Heat #1

19-20 Competitors (8 Heats, 2 Pre-Heats)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	13	16	17	20
2	14	15	18	19

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	8	9	2 POSITION Pre-Heat #1
2	4	5	12	1 POSITION Pre-Heat #1
3	3	6	11	1 POSITION Pre-Heat #2
4	2	7	10	2 POSITION Pre-Heat #2

21-24 Competitors (8 Heats, 4 Pre-Heats)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	9	16	17	24
2	12	13	20	21
3	11	14	19	22
4	10	15	18	23

Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	8	1 and 2 POSITION Qualified from Pre-Heat #1, ranked by Qualification time	



2	4	5	<del>1 and 2 POSITION</del> Qualified from Pre-Heat #2, ranked by Qualification time
3	3	6	<del>1 and 2 POSITION</del> Qualified from Pre-Heat #3, ranked by Qualification time
4	2	7	<del>1 and 2 POSITION</del> Qualified from Pre-Heat #4, ranked by Qualification time

#### 25-32 Competitors (16 Heats)

Pre-Heat #	1 POSITION (RED)	2 POSITION (GREEN)	3 POSITION (BLUE)	4 POSITION (YELLOW)
1	1	16	17	32
2	8	9	24	25
3	5	12	21	28
4	4	13	20	29
5	3	14	19	30
6	6	11	22	27
7	7	10	23	26
8	2	15	18	31

#### 1411.4 Inspection/Training

The competitors are allowed to inspect the course by slowly sliding down through or alongside the course. Inspection times are at the discretion of the Competition Jury but should be a minimum of 15 minutes. Competitors must visibly wear their start numbers and their helmets.

~~The Jury may announce at the teams' captain meeting if the use of transponders for the purpose of recording competitors' times and/or finishing positions is mandatory during inspection, training and competition. In this case competitors who do not comply shall not be permitted to participate.~~ At least one training run prior to the actual competition is mandatory normally the training session should be 1–2 hours in length and if possible, should be held the day before the actual competition (under certain mitigating circumstances the competition Jury may decide other possibilities).

#### 1411.5.7 Competition

In a SBX Team/SBX Mixed Team event the time difference between the first competitors from each team is measured in accordance with the Freestyle/Snowboard FIS Timing Booklet. All of the first competitors from each team line up in the start and the traditional SBX start cadence is given with all gates opening at the same time. As soon as these competitors leave the start, the gates are closed and their teammates line up in the same start gate. When all first competitors from all teams cross the finish line (or are DNF and in safe position) the recorded time difference between the first competitors will be entered in the start gate and a new start command will be given. The start gates will then open individually for each competitor, with a delay equal to the time difference between the first competitors up to the maximum penalty time (art. 0). The first two teams whose second teammate crosses the finish line will advance to the next round. In all heats where teams advance automatically to the next round, these teams may choose to run or to skip that heat.

If the start gate cannot be opened respecting the time delays or the maximum penalty time, all competitors start at the same time. In this case, the time differences between the competitors of the first heat and the competitors of the second heat will be added together. The two teams with the lowest added time differences will advance to the next round. If two or more teams are tied in the Big or Small Final, they will remain tied. In all other rounds, if two or more teams are tied, the team with the worse seeding points will win the tie.

#### 1411.5.14 ~~Start Stop~~ Penalty Time

~~In the case of a crash while the 1<sup>st</sup> teammates are on the course and crashed competitor(s) remain in an unsafe position on course, it may be necessary to stop the start before the gates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> teammates open. In this case the 2<sup>nd</sup> teammate's Heat will get started, once the course has been safely cleared, with the respective time delay or the maximum penalty time. For the re-start if the start gate cannot be opened respecting the time delays or the maximum penalty time, all competitors re-start at the same time.~~

The penalty time for a SBX Mixed Team event is calculated by taking 6% of the average of the best individual race qualification time per event per gender, with a maximum of three (3) seconds (e.g. best time Men 0:48 + best time Women 0:51) / 2 = 49.5 sec \* 6% = 2.97 sec). The penalty time for a SBX Team event is calculated for each gender separately, by taking 6% of the best individual race qualification time, with a maximum of three (3) seconds. The Jury may decide to change the penalty time in a range between 3% and 7% to adapt to special circumstances and grant interesting racing. The adaption of the penalty-time must be announced at the TCM before the competition.

If there is no individual race time as a reference this calculation result has to be estimated and confirmed by the race Jury.

~~If the race has to get stopped during the second teammate's Heat or some of its athletes being already on the course the complete second teammate's Heat will get restarted, once the course has been safely cleared, with the respective time delay or the maximum penalty time. However, in case of an obvious manipulation provoking a rerun, the Jury can decide that the results of only the first teammates may stand for that Heat.~~

A team which is ranked DNF cannot continue to participate. A start stop during a SBX team event should be confirmed by the Race Director who should therefore have clear overview of the course.

#### 1411.5.18 DNS, DNF and DSQ in SBX Team and SBX Mixed Team Finals

If a team does not start in the round of 16 or eight it will automatically be ranked in the 16th or eighth position. If two or more teams do not start, the DNS teams will be ranked 16/15th or 8/7th according to their seeding position and so on with three or more DNS teams.

Order of placing: DSQ (sports disqualification) to be ranked on the last place in the Heat according to the seeding points. In a case where more competitors do not complete the course nor cross the finish line, the rankings in that Heat will be based on the location where the competitor(s) have completed the course. The competitor that has made it further down the course correctly will receive the higher rank. If two or more competitors are tied in the finish or going out at the same gate, in the Big or Small Final, they will remain tied. In all other rounds, if two or more competitors are tied in the finish or going out at the same gate the tie will be broken according to the competitor team who has with the better/worse seeding points will win the tie. A team which does not start in the first round will appear as DNS on the result list. A team which did not start (DNS) in the Semi-final is allowed to start in the small final.

#### **1412.2 Format with heat elimination runs.**

Timed runs are used to advance athletes to the next round, with one athlete on course at a time.

##### 1412.2.1 There are two timed qualification formats:

- a) One Run - all athletes conduct one timed run.
- b) Two Runs - all athletes conduct two timed runs; the best run out of the two determines the ranking. Athletes who did not start (DNS), are disqualified (DSQ) or did not finish (DNF) in run one can participate in run two. For the 2nd run all competitors including DSQs, DNFs and DNSs will start in the same order as the first run.

##### 1412.2.2 Finals

The Finals for the competitors qualified as per rule 1412.2.1 will be conducted as follows: The competitors compete against each other in single timed runs. The first best competitors according to time in each heat advance from round to round.

Finals are designed for a maximum of 8 to 16 competitors with one run qualification and 4 to 8 competitors with two run qualification, and 2 competitors per Heat. The Jury will announce the number of qualification runs and number of athletes in the finals in the TC Meeting prior to the event.

Competitors who are disqualified (DSQ) or did not finish (DNF) in qualification/seeding will be seeded at the end of the result list according to their FIS Points. In case of a tie, the competitor with the higher start

number will be seeded first. Competitors who DNS are not allowed to start in the next competition phase.

1412.2.3 A final may consists of:

1/8-finals

1/4-finals

1/2-finals

Small and big final

1412.2.4 1/8-finals

The winners of the 1/8-finals qualify for the 1/4-finals.

1412.2.5 1/4-finals

The winners of the 1/4-finals qualify for the 1/2-finals.

1412.2.6 1/2-finals

The winners of the 1/2-finals qualify for the big final. The loser of the 1/2-finals qualifies for the small final.

1412.2.7 Small and big finals

The winner of the big final will be ranked 1st. The loser of the big final will be ranked 2nd. The winner of the small final will be ranked 3rd. The loser of the small final will be ranked 4th.

1412.2.8 Pairings for the Finals will be according to the following:

9 to 16 Athletes - 1/8 finals

<u>Heat #</u>	<u>1st Athlete to start</u>	<u>2nd Athlete to start</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>

5 to 8 Athletes - 1/4 finals

<u>Heat #</u>	<u>1st Athlete to start</u>	<u>2nd Athlete to start</u>
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<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>

3 to 4 Athletes - 1/2 finals

<u>Heat #</u>	<u>1st Athlete to start</u>	<u>2nd Athlete to start</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

1 to 2 Athletes - final only

<u>Heat #</u>	<u>1st Athlete to start</u>	<u>2nd Athlete to start</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

In all heats with only one athlete, this athlete advances automatically to the next round. In this case, the athlete may choose to run alone or to skip the heat (e.g. with 9 athletes in the finals start list only rank 8 and 9 run a heat, all others advance automatically to the next round).

1412.2.9 Ranking for Final Results

Competitors are ranked according to their time of finish in the final heat (Big Final) and in the consolation round (Small Final). All remaining competitors are ranked according to the round they go out in (e.g. Quarter Finals) and their time of finish within that round. A competitor who has qualified for a certain group (1/8 final, 1/4 final, etc.) will remain in this group and be ranked there.

In case of a tie, the competitors concerned will be ranked according to the fastest single qualification time. In the case where the same qualification time exists (best time out of two runs), the tie will be broken by using the total time of both qualification runs. If a tie still exists, the competitor with the higher bib number (used in the seeding or the qualification runs) will be scored as first. In the Big or Small Final the competitors will remain tied.

**1413.2 Technical Data DBSL**

~~For DBSL the vertical drop of the course must be between 50 and 100 meters with a minimum of 13 and maximum 19 banks.~~

The course should have a length on the ground of a minimum of 250 meters and a maximum of ~~recommended length is 250 to 350 meters.~~ In general, the courses should be 152° (+/- 23,0 °) in average steepness with a width of 30 to 40 meters. On shorter sections the course may have a width of 20 meters. Indoor DBSL events may have a minimum course length of 200 meters and a minimum of 9 banks. The length of the course may be reported in the starting list and final results.

The ideal DBSL Bank radius shall be between 7\_m and to 10\_m (8m is ideal). Depending on the terrain on which the course is built, the competition Jury may homologate DBSL courses with different measurements.

#### **1413.20 Final Formats**

—The format for the Finals has to be announced the latest at the Team Captains Meeting. In all heats where athletes advance automatically to the next round, these athletes may choose to run or to skip that heat.

#### **1413.22 Inspection and Training**

The competitors are allowed to inspect the course by slowly sliding down through or alongside the course. Inspection times are at the discretion of the Competition Jury but should be a minimum of 15 minutes. Competitors must visibly wear their start numbers and their helmets. ~~The Jury may announce at the teams' captain meeting if the use of transponders for the purpose of recording competitors' times and/or finishing positions is mandatory during inspection, training and competition. In this case competitors who do not comply shall not be permitted to participate.~~ At least one training run prior to the actual competition is mandatory normally the training session should be 1–2 hours in length and if possible should be held the day before the actual competition (under certain mitigating circumstances the competition Jury may decide other possibilities).

1413.25.2 A competitor who is disqualified or does not finish/abandons the run is eliminated.

In case both competitors do not finish, the competitor that passes the most gates wins the run.

~~If a competitor misses a gate and does not go back to pass it correctly, they no longer have the right to pass through further gates and must exit the course as soon as possible. If a competitor fails to comply with this rule, they may be sanctioned by the Jury (art. 223). It will be presumed that a competitor was aware of their fault if the competitor passed two or more gates incorrectly or obviously deviated from one of the possible correct passages gate lines.~~

#### **1414.4 Inspection/Training**

The competitors are allowed to inspect the course by slowly sliding down through or alongside the course. Inspection times are at the discretion of the Competition Jury but should be a minimum of 15 minutes. Competitors must visibly wear their start numbers and their helmets.

~~The Jury may announce at the teams' captain meeting if the use of transponders for the purpose of recording competitors' times and/or finishing positions is mandatory during inspection, training and competition. In this case competitors who do not comply shall not be permitted to participate.~~ At least one training run prior to the actual competition is mandatory normally the training session should be 1–2 hours in length

and if possible should be held the day before the actual competition (under certain mitigating circumstances the competition Jury may decide other possibilities).

#### 1414.5.7 Competition

The teams determine by themselves which team competitor will run first and second. The lower seeded team shall announce the order before the higher seeded team. The team with the better seeding position can choose either the red or blue course. The selection must be made no later than when the competitors enter the start platform.

The first competitors from each team will start with the standard parallel start sequence: gates will open simultaneously. As soon as these competitors leave the start, the gates are closed and the 2nd team competitors line up in the opposite start gate. When the competitors of both teams cross the finish line (or are DNF and in safe position) the time difference will be entered at the start and a new start command will be given, the start gates will open with the time difference of the first pair of competitors up to the maximum penalty time (art. 1414.5.14). The team whose 2nd team competitor crosses the finish line first will be the winner of the Heat. In all heats where teams advance automatically to the next round, these teams may choose to run or to skip that heat.

If the start gate cannot be opened respecting the time delays or the maximum penalty time, all competitors re-start at the same time. In this case, the time differences between the competitors of the first heat and the competitors of the second heat will be added together. The two teams with the lowest added time differences will advance to the next round. If two or more teams are tied in the Big or Small Final, they will remain tied. In all other rounds, if two or more teams are tied, the team with the worse seeding points will win the tie.

#### Special Circumstances

In case the first competitor of a team did not start, the 2nd team competitor of the team is not allowed to start and the team will be marked as Did Not Start (DNS). In case the first team competitor did not finish or is disqualified, and the other team has a valid time then the team who did not complete the course correctly will start with the penalty time.

In case both teams have not completed the course correctly, the team that has completed less gates will start with the penalty time.

If both competitors are disqualified in the run of the 2nd competitors at the same gate, the team that won the first run will be the winner of the Heat.

If both competitors do not complete the course at the same gate or are tied on the Finish Line, the team with the higher start position advances to the next round. In Small and Big Finals ties at the same gate or on the Finish Line will not be broken.

#### ~~1415.5.13 — Start Stop~~

~~In the case of a crash while the 1<sup>st</sup> teammates are on the course, and crashed competitor(s) remain in an unsafe position on course, it may be necessary to stop the start before the gates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> teammates open. In this case the 2<sup>nd</sup> teammate's Heat will get started, once the course has been safely cleared, with the respective time delay or the maximum penalty time. For the re-start if the start gate cannot be opened~~

respecting the time delays or the maximum penalty time, all competitors re-start at the same time.

## Appendix

Code	Snowboard Cross Course	Measurement
CL (m)	Course Length	450 m <del>---</del> 1300,0 m
CA (°)	Course Angle (average)	<del>12,0°</del> (+/- 2,0°)
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>7°-11°</u>
	<u>Level 2 &amp; 3</u>	<u>5°-11°</u>
VD (m)	Vertical Drop	<del>min 100,0 m max 250,0 m</del>
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>100 m - 250 m</u>
	<u>Level 2 &amp; 3</u>	<u>45 m - 250 m</u>
<del>SW</del> <u>TW</u> (m)	<del>Slope</del> <u>Track</u> Width <u>(average)</u>	<del>40</del> <u>20</u> ,0 m
<del>TW</del> <u>CW</u> (m)	<del>Track</del> <u>Course</u> Width	6,0 m - 16,0 m
	Depending on level of competition	
	Start Criteria	
SA (m <del>2</del> )	Start Area	Length 10,0 m Width 30,0 m
SP (m)	Start Platform Width depending on the start gate	Length min. 6,0 m Width 12,0 m (+/- 4,0 m)
SL (m)	Start Length (from start to first <del>turn</del> <u>direction change</u> )	
	Level 1	100,0 m +/- 20 m
	Level 2 & 3	80,0 m <u>+/- 20 m</u>
<del>SI</del> (°)	<del>Start</del> <u>Inclination</u> <u>(to first bank)</u>	<del>6,0°</del> <u>8,0°</u>
	Finish Criteria	
FL (m)	Finish Line (width)	<del>10</del> <u>15</u> ,0 m (+/- <del>25</del> <u>5</u> ,0 m)
FA (m)	Finish Area Length	60,0 m ( <u>+/- 10,0 m</u> ) <del>at 0,0°</del>
FW (m)	Finish Area Width	min. <del>30</del> <u>24</u> ,0 m
	Competition Level	
Level 1	PWG, WSC, WC	
Level 2	COC,	



Leve 3	NC, FIS	
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## Annex 2 - Para Snowboard Classification Rules and Regulations

### 4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by FIS as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 FIS ~~must~~ provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 ~~FIS must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible.~~ The Classifier Competencies ~~must~~ include that a Classifier has:
  - 4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
  - 4.3.2 an understanding of Para Snowboard, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport;
  - 4.3.3 an understanding of the IPC Athlete Classification Code and the International Standards; and
  - 4.3.4 a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for FIS. These include that Classifiers must be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which FIS at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment.
- 4.4 FIS have a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process includes:
  - 4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
  - 4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
  - 4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
  - 4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 ~~FIS must specify t~~The Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers can be found within the FIS Para Alpine Skiing and Para Snowboard Classifier Pathway, available on the FIS website. FIS will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 FIS ~~must~~ provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 FIS may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
  - 4.7.1 a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
  - 4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
  - 4.7.3 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;

- 4.7.4 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
- 4.7.5 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
- 4.7.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if FIS is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
- 4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if FIS is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

## 5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. The FIS Universal Code of Ethics defines the rules of conduct of the officials, competitors and partners of FIS. These rules also provide for a mechanism of enforcement and sanction for those who are in breach of the FIS Universal Code of Ethics (available here: <https://www.fis-ski.com/en/inside-fis/governance/ethics>). ~~FIS has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.~~
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the ~~Classifier Code of Conduct~~ FIS Universal Code of Ethics.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the FIS Universal Code of Ethics ~~Classifier Code of Conduct~~ must report this to the FIS Ethics and Compliance Officer.
- 5.4 If FIS receives such a report, it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5 FIS has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

### Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4 FIS must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, FIS may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix 3 lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
  - 7.4.2 The means by which FIS determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of FIS. FIS may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.3 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment FIS becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances FIS will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Body.

- 7.5 An Athlete must supply FIS with all relevant evidence/information necessary to assist in verifying the existence of one or more Underlying Health Condition(s) that the Athlete wishes to be assessed by FIS as the basis for their Classification. Diagnostic Information ~~that~~ must be provided as follows:
- 7.5.1 The ~~relevant~~ Athlete's National Body must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to FIS, upon completing the registration of an Athlete in FPDMS, at minimum six (6) weeks prior to Athlete Evaluation.
- 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified medical doctor.
- 7.5.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information ~~if~~ as required by FIS.
- 7.6 FIS may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form ~~(with necessary or~~ supportive Diagnostic Information) if FIS, at its sole discretion, considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7 If FIS requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.8.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Body that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.8.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
- 7.8.3 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings.
- 7.8.4 If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 7.8.5 ~~Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee.~~ Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.

## 14 Observation in Competition

- 14.1 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates

a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.

- 14.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 14.3 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:

14.5.1 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

14.5.2 First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.

14.6 When Observation in Competition Assessment reveals:

14.6.1 inconsistencies with the Physical Assessment and/or the Technical Assessment; and/or

14.6.2 that the Athlete, in the sole discretion of the Classification Panel, may have not performed to his best ability,

14.6.3 re-assessment may take place before a Sport Class is allocated. Such re-assessment must take place as soon as possible at that same Competition by the same Classification Panel.

~~14.6~~14.7 An Athlete who is required to complete a re-assessment will remain designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA) for the duration of the re-assessment.

~~14.7~~14.8 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete a re-assessment, the Athlete must complete another Observation in Competition Assessment. The Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the completion of the Physical and/or Technical Assessment(s) of the reassessment. The Observation in Competition Assessment must take place the next time the Athlete competes in an Event during the Competition in a particular Sport Class. Such appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class. If Observation in Competition Assessment is no longer possible, Article 14.10 applies.

~~14.8~~14.9 If an Athlete is:

- a) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
- b) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
- c) pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,

Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).

~~14.9~~14.10 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.

14.11 If an Athlete has been assigned the Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) subsequent to the initial phases of Athlete Evaluation, but OA does not occur due to various circumstances including, but not limited to:

- a) The athlete fails to start (DNS)
- b) The race is called off due to exceptional circumstances (e.g., inclement weather)
- c) The athlete starts but the panel cannot conduct a substantive assessment (e.g., the athlete falls early in the race)

the Classification Panel shall determine whether to allocate a Sport Class Status of Review, Review with a Fixed Review Date (next season) or designate the athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) as per the guidelines outlined in Article 10 of these regulations.

~~14.10~~14.12 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance in accordance with the provisions of 14.5. All Athletes will however continue to be observed throughout the season, and if FIS considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, FIS may raise a Protest in accordance with the provisions of Articles 23 and 24.

~~14.11~~14.13 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the Para Snowboard ICRs.

## Appendix One

### Athletes with Physical Impairment

#### 1 Eligible Impairment Types

The following Physical Impairment types are eligible in Para Snowboard under the following conditions:

- An athlete must be affected by at least one (1) of the Impairment Types as listed in the first column of the table: and

- The Impairment must result directly from a permanent Underlying Health Condition, examples of which are included in the second column.

The process for assessing whether an athlete has or does not have an Underlying Health Condition leading to an Eligible Impairment is outlined under Article 7 of these Rules.

## **2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)**

The MIC defines how severe an Athletes Impairment must be in order to be eligible for Para Snowboard.

<b><u>Eligible impairment</u></b>	<b><u>Lower Limb</u></b>	<b><u>Upper Limb</u></b>
<u>Limb Deficiency</u>	<u>Single above ankle amputation Resulting in a loss of functional ankle joint, i.e. absence of ankle joint (congenital)</u>	<u>Single or double through or above wrist amputation Resulting in the absence of wrist joint (congenital)</u>
<u>Impaired Muscle Power</u>	<u>In one leg resulting in a score of 0-2 in: ankle dorsiflexion and ankle plantar flexion; OR knee flexion and extension; OR hip flexion and extension; OR resulting in a score of 24 points or less across ankle, knee and hip (max score = 30 one leg)</u>	<u>Loss of muscle power in at least one arm, resulting in a Score of 0-2 for elbow flexion and extension; and/or a Total score of 8 for shoulder flexion, extension, abduction and adduction (normal = 20)</u>
<u>Hypertonia</u>	<u>Grade 2 or more on Ashworth Scale in any direction of movement in at least one leg</u>	<u>Must result in grade 2 or more on the Ashworth scale in any direction of movement in at least one arm</u>
<u>Ataxia or Athetosis</u>	<u>Must be observable through involuntary movement in at least one leg</u>	<u>Must be observable through involuntary movement in at least one arm</u>
<u>Leg Length Difference</u>	<u>Difference that warrants a correction of at least 7 cm to the snowboard boot to equate it to the non-impaired limb</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>No passive range of movement in the ankle joint or a loss of at minimum 50% of passive range of movement in at least one knee or hip joint. The assessment of Impaired Range of Motion will be complemented with an assessment of Impaired Muscle Power.</u>	<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement in at least one arm, limited to: 50% of the normal range of movement in the elbow and shoulder joint; OR 25% of the normal range movement in elbow or shoulder; With the elbow movements considered are flexion and extension and the shoulder movements considered are</u>

	<u>flexion, extension, abduction and adduction)</u>
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## **2.3 Assessment Methodology**

**2.43.1** An Athlete must undertake physical and, if required, technical assessment in order to be allocated a Sport Class. This is required in order to establish that the Athlete exhibits an Impairment that qualifies the Athlete for Competition, and that the Athlete exhibits activity limitations resulting from that Impairment that affect the Athlete's ability to compete. Both of these components are part of the overall eligibility assessment process that is an integral feature of Athlete Evaluation. The physical and technical assessment detailed in this section are complemented with observation in Competition if required by the Classification Panel.

**2.23.2** In order to complete the physical and technical assessment, a Classification Panel must have access to medical documentation regarding the Athlete's Impairment.

**2.33.3** Athletes are required to attend an Evaluation Session with any prosthetics, braces, strapping, and supports as well as modified snowboard boots.

**3.4** All athletes will undergo an assessment relevant to the underlying health condition/diagnosis and presentation. This includes, but is not limited to, testing of:

- Muscle power
- Muscle tone
- Reflexes
- Passive range of movement
- Co-ordination
- Motor control/Movement control
- Anthropometric measurements

Final Sport Class allocation is a result of a combination of several measurements and assessments.

### **Muscle strength testing (Oxford Scale) Impaired Muscle Power**

**2.43.5** Muscle strength must be measured with the Oxford Scale (Daniels and Worthingham 2013 edition 10, 2020). The scores defining the Sport Class profiles make use of this scale.

- 0 - Complete absence of muscle contraction.
- 1 - Faint contraction noted without any movement of the limb.
- 2 - Contraction with very weak movement through full available range of movement when gravity is eliminated.
- 3 - Contraction moving joint through the full available range of movement against gravity.
- 4 - Contraction with full available range movement against gravity plus some resistance.
- 5 - Normal strength through full available range of movement against full resistance.



3.6 The upper limb assessment is made by conducting the muscle strength test for some or all the following movements:

- Elbow flexion and extension
- Shoulder abduction, adduction, flexion and extension

3.7 The lower limb assessment is made by conducting the muscle strength test for some or all the following movements:

- Hip flexion and extension
- Knee flexion and extension
- Ankle dorsi flexion and plantar flexion

### **Impaired Passive Range of Movement**

3.8 Impaired Passive Range of Movement testing is conducted in reference to the anatomical ranges of movement described in Daniels and Worthingham (edition 10 2020).

3.9 General Considerations:

- Athlete appropriately positioned for assessment
- Active range of movement is determined and when limitation is noted the passive range of movement is further assessed

3.10 Equipment used:

- Long arm goniometer

### **Limb Deficiency**

3.11 Limb deficiency must be demonstrated as having partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma, illness or congenital limb deficiency.

3.12 General Considerations:

- Determination of whether limb deficiency is acquired or congenital
- Athlete appropriately positioned for assessment
- Residual limb is measured using consistent and precise anatomical landmarks
- Measurements must be recorded accurately for left and right sides

3.13 Equipment used:

- Medical tape measure (in centimeters)

### **Leg Length Difference**

3.14 Leg length difference must be demonstrated as anatomic leg length discrepancy as opposed to functional leg length discrepancy.

3.15 General Considerations:

- Determination of leg length discrepancy
- Athlete appropriately positioned for assessment
- Leg length is measured in supine position, taking the average of two measurements of the distance from the inferior aspect of the anterior superior iliac spine to the distal tip of the medial malleolus
- Measurements must be recorded accurately for left and right sides

### 3.16 Equipment used:

- Medical tape measure (in centimeters)

### Coordination Testing

3.18 Activity limitation/coordination tests are used in combination with the assessments for Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis to make an evidence informed classification decision.

#### 3.183.19 Upper limb assessment

~~The following aspects should be considered when assessing the u~~Upper limb coordination tests include, but are not limited to:s:

- ~~▪ Muscle power~~
- ~~▪ Muscle tone~~
- ~~▪ Reflexes~~
- ~~▪ Passive range of movement~~
- ~~▪ Co-ordination (describe, left and right):-~~
  - -Hand grasp and release
  - -Finger opposition
  - -Finger to nose
  - -Rapid palm up/palm down on lap
  - -Bilateral finger opposition in front of body

~~The aim of an upper limb neurological assessment is to determine if an Athlete has a bilateral or unilateral Impairment which would ensure Minimal Impairment Criteria is met. This applies also for limb loss, and limited active and/or passive ROM.~~

#### 3.193.20 Lower limb assessment

~~The following aspects should be considered when assessing the l~~Lower limbs coordination tests include, but are not limited to:

- ~~▪ Muscle power~~
- ~~▪ Muscle tone~~
- ~~▪ Reflexes~~
- ~~▪ Passive range of movement~~
- ~~▪ Co-ordination (describe, left and right):-~~
  - -Heel walking
  - -Toe walking
  - -Heel- toe walking in a straight line
  - -Single leg stance (eyes open and eyes shut)
  - -Hopping on one leg, on spot/clockwise/anti-clockwise
  - -Running (including quick change of direction)
  - -Knee lifts whilst running
  - -Heel kick when running
  - -Jumping
  - -Rapid squats

The aim of a lower limb neurological assessment is to determine if an Athlete has a bilateral or unilateral Impairment, and to make an evidence based Classification decision.

### 34 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class Profiles

#### Sport Class: SB - LL1

Eligible impairment	Minimum criteria Sport Class Profile
Limb Deficiency	Single above knee amputation, including through the knee Double <u>through or</u> above ankle amputation Absence of a functional knee joint in at least one leg (congenital)

#### Sport Class: SB - LL2

Eligible impairment	Minimum criteria Sport Class Profile
Limb Deficiency	Single <u>through or</u> above ankle amputation Resulting in a loss of functional ankle joint, i.e. absence of ankle joint (congenital)
Impaired Muscle Power	<del>In one leg resulting in a score of 0-2 in:- ankle dorsiflexion and ankle plantar flexion; OR knee flexion and extension; OR hip flexion and extension; OR resulting in a <u>Total</u> score of 24 points or less <u>across</u> ankle, knee and hip <u>in one leg</u> (max score = 30 <u>points</u> <u>in</u> one leg)</del>

#### Sport Class: SB – UL

Eligible Impairment	Minimum Criteria Sport Class Profile
Limb deficiency	Single or double <u>through or</u> above wrist amputation Resulting in the absence of wrist joint (congenital)