



PRECISIONS, INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

PARA ALPINE SKIING

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

EDITION 2023/24

FIS Council Meeting: 24th May 2023.

1) INTRODUCTION

This document presents the rule changes within the Para Alpine Skiing International Competition Rules (ICR), Rules of the FIS Points, Classification Rules and Regulations, as well as the Equipment Specifications Books following the approval of the proposals by the FIS Council on 24th May 2023.

All updated documents are now available on the FIS Website.

2) FLUOR BAN IMPLEMENTATION TO BEGIN SEASON 2023-2024

As per latest [official communication](#), the full fluor wax ban is fully implemented for the 2023/2024 season following the testing of the device and training of the officials during the 2022/2023 season. The testing will be carried out across all event levels in order to ensure fluor-free competitions.

3) CLASSIFICATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

A number of amendments have been made to the Para Alpine 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.

In addition, in order to support the implementation of the new Vision Impairment Classification system over the next season, two new Appendices have been introduced to the Para Alpine Skiing Classification Rules and Regulations:

- Appendix Four: Athletes with Vision Impairment – Implementation of the new classification system. *This appendix explains how the new rules will be introduced over the next two seasons.*
- Appendix Five: Athletes with Vision Impairment. *This appendix includes the new VI classification rules and Sport Class criteria which athletes will be classified against in the 2023/24 season, but only with effect in competition from 2024/25.*

At the conclusion of the 2023/24 season, the current Appendix Two: Athletes with Vision Impairment, and the new Appendix Four will be removed, and the new Appendix Five will become Appendix Two.

The amendments together with the two new VI appendices are as follows:

[35.5 FIS encourage athletes to participate in research related activities presented and endorsed by FIS in order to support the development of the sport and the classification agenda.](#)

Appendix One

2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

Eligible Impairment	Upper Limb	Lower Limb
Hypertonia Ataxia	Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side.	May present with Athetosis or Ataxia. Will present with

Athetosis	Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side. Equivalent activity limitation to below elbow amputation.	Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes. Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side. Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp. <u>Single leg stance on impaired side greater than 3 sec.</u> <u>Able to hop on impaired side, but difficulty remaining on one spot.</u> <u>Side step towards impaired side more labored than intact side.</u> <u>Able to heel walk, approx. 2m</u> <u>Unable to hop on impaired side.</u> <u>Unable to side step towards impaired side.</u> <u>Single leg stance less than 3-sec on impaired side.</u> <u>Unable to heel walk.</u>
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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

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

Coordination Testing

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

3.13 Upper limb assessment

The following aspects should be considered when assessing the upper limbs:

Muscle power

Muscle tone

Reflexes

Passive range of movement

Co-ordination (describe, left and right):-

Upper Limb coordination tests include, but are not limited to:

- 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 then suggest an inability to grasp a pole and/or a capacity to use the pole functionally as well as ensuring Minimal Impairment Criteria is met. This applies also for limb loss, and limited active and/or passive ROM.

3.14 Lower limb assessment

Lower Limb coordination tests include, but are not limited to:

— The following aspects should be considered when assessing the lower limbs:

— Muscle power

— Muscle tone

— Reflexes

— Passive range of movement

— Co-ordination (describe, left and right):-

- Walking, running (including quick change of direction)
- Walking backwards
- Heel-toe walking in a straight line (tandem gait)

- Heel walking
- Toe walking

— Heel- toe walking in a straight line

- Single leg stance (eyes open and eyes shut)
- Hopping on one leg, on the spot/clockwise/anti-clockwise

- Side stepping

- Grapevine

- Heel-shin test in sit

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 evidence based

Classification decision.

Board Test

3.15 The Board Test consists of a series of tests designed for all athletes competing in a sitting position with potential trunk dysfunction (Sport Classes LW10 – LW12). These tests are designed to assess trunk function and are carried out on a test board.

3.16 To conduct the Board Test, the following equipment is required:

- Test board with 3 straps (as seen in the below pictures) which may include the use of strapping, foam, cushions

- 1 kg medicine ball or weighted object

— Knee flexion roll

- Foam wWedges to stabilize board

- Classifiers will adjust or modify the equipment or set up as needed to meet the individual needs of the athlete and/or to comprehensively or more specifically assess the athlete's physical ability

Observation Assessment

3.19 Observation Assessment refers to the observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel. The Observation Assessment is only required if a Classification Panel considers it is necessary in order to complete an Evaluation Session.

3.20 It provides the Classification Panel an opportunity to observe the Athlete in a competitive sport situation where the Athlete is likely to be using their best efforts in order to be competitive against other Athletes.

3.21 During the Observation Assessment the Athlete is observed by the Classification Panel, with a focus on the ability of the Athlete to control, balance and edge the skis at the start, during turns and passing gates. For Athletes competing in a standing position, it may include the use of the arms and poles or outriggers. For Athletes competing in a sitting position, it may include the use of the outriggers, ability to angulate the trunk, have active for/after movements or transitions to the side.

3.22 After the Observation Assessment is complete, the Classification Panel may decide that reassessment must take place before the Athlete Evaluation is completed.

4 ~~Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class Profiles~~

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

Standing Sport Classes LW 1 to LW 9

Sport Class	Sport Class Profile
LW1	Bilateral Lower Limb Impairment
Impaired Muscle Power	Total score of less than 35 (normal = 80) in both legs on the Oxford Scale
Limb Deficiency	Double above knee amputation, one above knee and one below knee amputation or Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Both lower limbs affected Athetosis or ataxia must be observable with involuntary movement of both limbs <u>Ataxia must be observed in both lower limbs during voluntary movements</u> Hypertonicity will be present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes bilaterally= grade 3-2 bilaterally <u>And</u> Requires a gait aid for ambulation and/or walking will be labored. <u>Trunk sways to lead lower extremity movement.</u> Running not possible

	<p>Single leg stance less than 3 sec</p> <p>Poor balance</p> <p>Unable to hop</p> <p>Unable to perform advanced balance and co-ordination skills (grapevine, jump and turn, heelheel-shin)</p>
Technical	<p>Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles/outriggers, the skis may be tied together.</p> <p>Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.</p>
LW2	Unilateral Lower Limb Impairment
Impaired Muscle Power	Total score of less than 20 (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
Limb Deficiency	Single above or below knee amputation, at minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), or Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
<u>Leg Length Difference</u>	<u>7 cm or more</u>
Impaired Passive Range of Movement	Arthrodesis of knee and hip on the same side.
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<p>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb Deficiency as listed above</p> <p><u>May present with Athetosis or Ataxia. Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes.</u></p> <p><u>Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side.</u></p> <p><u>And</u></p> <p><u>Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp.</u></p> <p><u>Single leg stance on impaired side greater than 3 sec.</u></p> <p><u>Able to hop on impaired side, but difficulty remaining on one spot</u></p> <p><u>Side step towards impaired side more labored than intact side.</u></p> <p><u>Able to heel walk, approx. 2m</u></p>
Technical	<p>Skis with 1 ski, 2 poles/outriggers</p> <p>Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.</p>
LW3	Bilateral Lower Limb Impairment
Impaired Muscle Power	Total score of less than 60 (normal = 80) in both legs on the Oxford Scale
Limb Deficiency	At minimum bilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), including double below knee amputation and Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<p>Both lower limbs affected</p> <p>Athetosis or ataxia must be observable with involuntary movement of both limbs</p>

	<p><u>Ataxia must be observed in both lower limbs during voluntary movements.</u></p> <p>Hypertonicity will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes bilaterally and spasticity = grade 2-1 bilaterally</p> <p><u>And</u></p> <p>Does not use aids for ambulation</p> <p>Able to run, but will demonstrate difficulty with sudden change in direction.</p> <p>Single leg stance greater than 3 sec.</p> <p>Able to hop, but difficulty remaining on one spot</p> <p>Impaired performance of advanced balance and co-ordination skills (grapevine, jump and turn, heel-shin)</p>
Technical	<p>Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles/outriggers</p> <p>Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.</p>
LW4	Unilateral Lower Limb Impairment
Impaired Muscle Power	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
Limb Deficiency	At minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), including below knee amputation and Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb)
<u>Leg Length Difference</u>	<u>7 cm or more</u>
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<p>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or Limb Deficiency as listed above</p> <p><u>May present with Athetosis or Ataxia. Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes.</u></p> <p><u>Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side.</u></p> <p><u>And</u></p> <p><u>Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp.</u></p> <p><u>Single leg stance on impaired side greater than 3 sec.</u></p> <p><u>Able to hop on impaired side, but difficulty remaining on one spot.</u></p> <p><u>Side step towards impaired side more labored than intact side.</u></p> <p><u>Able to heel walk, approx. 2m</u></p>
Technical	<p>Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles</p> <p>Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.</p>
LW5/7	Bilateral Upper Limb Impairment
LW 5/7-1	
Impaired Muscle Power	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with double-bilateral above elbow amputations; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole

<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with bilateral above elbow amputations; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole</u>
Limb Deficiency	Bilateral above elbow amputation Bilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to bilateral above elbow amputations
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<u>Spasticity = grade 3-2 on both sides</u> <u>Not able or partially able to perform upper limb co-ordination tests. No functional ability bilaterally.</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with bilateral above elbow amputations; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole</u> <u>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb-Deficiency as listed above</u>
Technical	2 skis, no poles Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.
LW 5/7-2	
Impaired Muscle Power	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with an above elbow amputation, and below elbow amputation; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole
<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with an above elbow amputation, and below elbow amputation; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole</u>
Limb Deficiency	One arm amputated above the elbow and one below the elbow. Bilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb lengths equivalent to a one arm above elbow amputation and the other below elbow amputation.
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<u>First upper limb: spasticity = grade 3-2</u> <u>Not able or partially able to perform upper limb co-ordination tests. No functional ability.</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with an above elbow amputation.</u> <u>And;</u> <u>Second upper limb: spasticity = grade 2-1</u> <u>Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests.</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with a below elbow amputation.</u> <u>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb-Deficiency as listed above</u>
Technical	2 skis, no poles Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.
LW 5/7-3	
Impaired Muscle Power	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with bilateral below elbow amputations Neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole

<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with bilateral below elbow amputations</u> <u>Neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole</u>
Limb Deficiency	Bilateral below elbow amputation. Bilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb lengths equivalent to below elbow limb amputations. Residual limbs unable to hold and use a ski pole
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<u>Spasticity = grade 2-1 bilaterally</u> <u>Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests bilaterally</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with bilateral below elbow amputations</u> <u>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb-Deficiency as listed above</u>
Technical	2 skis, no poles Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.
LW6/8	Unilateral Upper Limb Impairment
LW 6/8-1	
Impaired Muscle Power	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with unilateral above elbow amputation s
<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with unilateral above elbow amputation</u>
Limb Deficiency	Unilateral above elbow amputation Unilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to unilateral above elbow amputation
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<u>Spasticity = grade 3-2 on impaired side</u> <u>Not able or partially able to perform upper limb co-ordination tests. No functional ability unilateral.</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with unilateral above elbow amputation</u> <u>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb-Deficiency as listed above</u>
Technical	2 skis, 1 pole Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.
LW 6/8-2	
Impaired Muscle Power	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with a unilateral below elbow amputation.
<u>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</u>	<u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with a unilateral below elbow amputation</u>
Limb Deficiency	Unilateral below elbow amputation Unilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to unilateral through the elbow amputation. Residual limb is unable to hold and use a ski pole.

Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<u>Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side</u> <u>Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side.</u> <u>Equivalent activity limitation to that of an Athlete with a unilateral below elbow amputation</u> <u>Nerve injury resulting in muscle power Impairment or Limb-Deficiency as listed above</u>	
Technical	2 skis, 1 pole Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.	
LW9	Ipsilateral or Contralateral Upper Limb and Lower Limb Impairment	
LW 9-1		
Impaired Muscle Power	Lower limb	Total score of less than 20 (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
	Upper limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an Athlete with unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Limb Deficiency	Lower limb	Above knee amputation or Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
	Upper limb	Unilateral above or below elbow amputation Unilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to either unilateral above or elbow amputation.
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis (hemiplegic involvement)	Lower limb	May present with Athetosis or Ataxia Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes Spasticity = grade 3-2 on impaired side Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp. Unable to hop on impaired side. Unable to side step towards impaired side Single leg stance less than 3 sec on impaired side. Unable to heel walk.
	Upper limb	Spasticity = grade 3-2 on impaired side Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side. Equivalent activity limitation to either above or below elbow amputation.
Technical	1 or 2 skis, 1 or 2 poles or outriggers Upper and lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.	
LW 9-2		
Impaired Muscle Power	Lower limb	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale

	Upper Limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an Athlete with unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Limb Deficiency	Lower limb	At minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation) or Impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
	Upper Limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an Athlete with u Unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis (hemiplegic involvement)	Lower limb	May present with Athetosis or Ataxia Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp. Single leg stance on impaired side greater than 3 sec. Able to hop on impaired side, but difficulty remaining on one spot Side step towards impaired side more laboured than intact side. Able to heel walk, approx. 2m
	Upper limb	Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side. Equivalent activity limitation to either above or below elbow amputation
Technical	2 skis, 1 or 2 poles or outriggers Upper and lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the FIS Para Snow Sports Equipment Specifications.	

Sitting Sport Classes LW 10 to LW 12

Sport Class	Sport Class Profile
LW10	
LW10-1	
Impaired Muscle Power	Absent activity of upper and lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 0 (zero) on the Oxford scale
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Neurological Impairment presenting with trunk Impairment as described above
Functional Presentation Testing	No active sitting balance Board Test Score = <u>usually</u> 0-4
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
LW10-2	
Impaired Muscle Power	Activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors equaling a score of 1 (one) or greater on the Oxford scale

	Absent activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 0 (zero) on the Oxford scale
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Neurological Impairment presenting with trunk Impairment as described above
Functional Presentation Testing	Minimal active sitting balance Board Test Score = <u>usually</u> 4-8
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
LW11	
Impaired Muscle Power	Full activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 4 (four) or greater on the Oxford scale Partial or full activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 1 (one) or greater on the Oxford scale No muscle power in flexion, extension, abduction and adduction at both hips
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Neurological Impairment resulting in muscle power Impairment as described above Diplegia with functional trunk Impairment
Functional Presentation Testing	Fair active sitting balance Board Test Score = <u>usually</u> 9-15
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
LW12	
LW12-1	
Impaired Muscle Power	Full activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors ;score of 4 (four) or greater on the Oxford scale Partial or full activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 1(one) or greater on the Oxford scale A score of 10 or less around one hip (normal = 20) <u>or</u> a score of 30 or less across both hips (normal = 40)
Limb Deficiency	Unilateral hip disarticulation/congenital absence or dysmelia or amputation of lower limbs with muscle power loss as above
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Neurological Impairment or diplegia presenting with Impaired Muscle Power as described above
Functional Presentation Testing	Board Test Score = <u>usually</u> 16-18 Good sitting balance
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
LW12-2	
Impaired Muscle Power	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale

Limb Deficiency	Unilateral through ankle amputation Unilateral Limb Deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to a through ankle amputation
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Neurological Impairment or diplegia presenting with muscle power Impairment as described above
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers

Appendix Four

Athletes with Vision Impairment – Implementation of the new classification system

1 Preamble

- 1.1 This Appendix sets out provisions for the implementation of the new classification system for athletes with Vision Impairment. These provisions will apply from 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 (inclusive).
- 1.2 These provisions concern:
 - 1.2.1 New Athletes with Vision Impairment entering the sport of Para Alpine Skiing from 01 July 2023;
 - 1.2.2 All active Athletes currently competing in Para Alpine Skiing with Sport Class B1, B2 or B3;
 - 1.2.3 Athletes with Vision Impairment classified NE in Para Alpine Skiing.

2 Implementation timeline

- 2.1 The new Vision Impairment criteria, as set out in Appendix Five of these Rules, will be implemented for competition from 01 July 2024.
- 2.2 For the 2023/24 season, the criteria as specified in Appendix Two of these Rules will remain in place for competition. However, to support the implementation of the new system, athletes will be classified throughout the 2023/24 season in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five but with no legal effect for season 2023/24.
- 2.3 From the beginning of the 2024/25 season (01 July 2024), Appendix Two will be replaced by Appendix Five, and this Appendix Four will no longer apply.

3 Implementation Process

- 3.1 Athletes with Vision Impairment entering the 2023/24 season with a Sport Class Status of New, Review or Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2023 (or earlier) will proceed to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel and will be allocated a Sport Class in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Two, and a Sport Class in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five.
- 3.2 Athletes with Vision Impairment entering the 2023/24 season with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2024 (or later) or Confirmed will proceed to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel and will be allocated a Sport Class in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five only.
- 3.3 Athletes with Vision Impairment previously allocated Not Eligible (NE) Confirmed may proceed to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel in the 2023/24 season and will be allocated a Sport Class in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five only.

- 3.4 On 01 July 2024, all Sport Classes and Sport Class Statuses allocated in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five will be applied to the FIS Para Alpine Skiing Classification Master List. All B1 – B3 Sport Classes, together with the Sport Class Statuses allocated with those Sport Classes, will be archived in the FIS Para Snow Sports Data Management System (FPDMS).
- 3.5 On 01 July 2024, athletes who have not been allocated a Sport Class by a Classification Panel in accordance with the criteria as set out in Appendix Five will be allocated Sport Class AS4 and Sport Class Status New in the Classification Master List.
- 3.6 From 01 July 2024, all new athletes entering Para Alpine Skiing, or athletes with a Review or a Review with a Fixed Review Date will be classified in accordance with the criteria currently set out in Appendix Five.

Appendix Five

Athletes with Vision Impairment

This Appendix outlines the process by which Athletes with Vision Impairment will be classified and allocated a Sport Class for Para Alpine Skiing. It is divided into four parts:

1. Eligible Impairment Type: describes the Eligible Impairment Type for Para Alpine Skiing and lists examples of Underlying Health Conditions that can lead to the Eligible Impairment.
2. Minimum Impairment Criteria: identifies how severe the Eligible Impairment must be in order to be eligible for Para Alpine Skiing.
3. Sport Class Profiles: describes the criteria for each of the Sport Classes for Para Alpine Skiing.
4. Assessment Methodology: describes the assessment methods to be applied during Athlete Evaluation.

1 Eligible Impairment Types

1.1 According to the International Standard for Eligible Impairments, Vision Impairment is defined as:

<u>Eligible Impairment</u>	<u>Examples of Health Conditions</u>
<u>Vision Impairment</u> <u>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.</u>	<u>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.</u>

1.2 The Athlete must have an Underlying Health Condition that leads to permanent Vision Impairment in both eyes resulting in impaired visual acuity or restricted visual field.

1.3 In accordance with the IPC's position, FIS has made the following decision:

- 1.3.1 refractive errors are no longer considered an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment; and
- 1.3.2 instead, when secondary pathological changes are present along with refractive errors, then the medical diagnosis should describe the specific changes causing the loss of vision. If the pathological changes are confirmed on the basis of the medical evidence provided through diagnostic testing, then the Athlete will be considered to have an Underlying Health Condition leading to an Eligible Impairment and will proceed to an Evaluation Session to determine if they meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the Para Alpine Skiing.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of the Athlete and their NSA to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's Vision Impairment. This must be done by way of submitting medical diagnostic information completed as described in Article 7.5 of these Rules.
- 1.5 The medical diagnostic information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostics Form (available on the FIS Para Alpine Skiing website) and additional medical documentation as indicated on the Medical Diagnostics Form. Failure to present with complete medical diagnostic information may lead to Athlete Evaluation being suspended in accordance with Article 10 of these Rules.
- 1.6 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be typewritten and submitted in English and may not be older than 12 months prior to the date of Evaluation Session unless FIS determines otherwise.
- 1.7 Medical Diagnostic Forms for Athletes with Vision Impairment must be completed by an ophthalmologist or may, in the discretion of FIS, be completed by an optometrist whose scope of practice includes making ophthalmic diagnoses.
- 1.8 Additional medical documentation must be submitted in English. If the original copy of the medical documentation is not in English, an official translation must be provided.

2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1 To be eligible to compete in Para Alpine Skiing, the Athlete must meet the criteria below:
- 2.1.1 The Athlete's Vision Impairment must result in:
- a static visual acuity of equal to LogMAR 0.6, or worse; or
 - a binocular visual field restricted to less than or equal to 70 degrees diameter.

3 Sport Class Profiles

3.1 Sport Class AS1

3.1.1 Light perception without measurable visual acuity or no light perception.

3.2 Sport Class AS2

3.2.1 Static visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.8 to 3.5 (inclusive).

3.3 Sport Class AS3

3.3.1 Static visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.0 to 1.7 (inclusive).

3.4 Sport Class AS4

3.4.1 Static visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 0.6 to 0.9 (inclusive), or

3.4.2 the binocular visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than or equal to 70 degrees if the Athlete's visual acuity is better than 0.6 logMAR.

4 Assessment Methodology

4.1 All visual function measurements are based on the Athlete's best corrected visual function while wearing the best optical correction.

4.2 Athletes using any optical correction, either for daily life or for competitions (e.g., glasses, lenses, diaphragmatic lenses and any other optical devices) must attend the Evaluation Session with their optical correction and their prescriptions.

4.3 The prescription of the glasses will be confirmed with a lensometer.

4.4 The Athlete's refractive error will be measured using an autorefractor, the athlete may be given trial frames to wear to achieve best correction.

4.5 An Athlete found to be using corrective devices during Competition that were not declared during the Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 32).

4.6 Athletes must declare any change in their optical correction to FIS before any Competition. If the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review. The Athlete will then undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to the next Competition under the provisions of these Rules. Failure to do so may result in an investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 32).

4.7 The head position to test visual acuity or visual field should be the one that gives the best vision and not the conventional/primary position.

4.8 Visual Acuity Assessment

4.8.1 Athlete Evaluation and Sport Class allocation must be based on the assessment of visual acuity using both eyes.

4.8.2 If the Classification Panel determines that an Athlete has better visual acuity using only one eye, Athlete Evaluation must be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the best eye.

4.8.3 Visual acuity is tested using the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing with Illiterate "E" and/or the Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test.

4.8.4 Visual acuity is measured using the logMAR scale when 0.0 logMAR acuity is equivalent to 20/20 acuity in Snellen notation which is often considered normal vision.

4.8.5 Visual acuity assessment is a threshold test. Therefore, Athletes are required to give their best guess to fail out of the test.

4.8.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel accompanying the Athlete during the Evaluation Session must remain out of sight of the visual acuity charts during the assessment.

- 4.8.7 If inconsistent responses to the visual acuity assessment are provided by the Athlete to the Classification Panel, or an Athlete's monocular acuity results are inconsistent with their binocular acuity, the Classification Panel may consider suspending the Evaluation Session (see Article 30.1.7).
- 4.9 Visual Field Assessment
- 4.9.1 An Athlete's visual field must be tested with one of the following perimeters: Goldmann Visual Field perimeter, Humphrey Field Analyser or Octopus Interzeag perimeter using a Goldmann III 4e stimulus or the equivalent stimulus.
- 4.9.2 The Athlete's Visual field must be tested to a minimum of 80 degrees diameter. Central visual fields may be tested in addition.
- 4.9.3 Visual Fields must be tested with the best optical correction unless the optical correction restricts the Athlete's visual field.
- 4.9.4 Any threshold point on a static visual field test with a value less than 10 decibels is considered not seen for the purposes of determining an Athlete's visual field diameter.
- 4.9.5 The extent of an Athlete's visual field measured on static visual field tests is determined by measuring between seen points, not point-to-point.
- 4.9.6 An Athlete's visual field diameter is measured by determining the longest diameter on any axis that passes through the fixation point.
- 4.9.7 All seen portions along a single axis are added to give the final diameter.
- 4.9.8 The visual field diameter cannot be measured on the edge of a seen area.
- 4.10 Following visual function testing, the Classification Panel will conduct a slit lamp exam to compare ocular findings with information provided on the Athlete's MDF and supporting medical Diagnostic Information. The Classification Panel may administer dilation drops to conduct the slit lamp exam.
- 4.11 Under the provisions set out in this Appendix, Observation in Competition does not apply to Athletes with Vision Impairment.
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4) APPROVED RULE CHANGES

The International Competition Rules (ICR)

- 201.6.3 *Freestyle Ski Events*
Moguls, Dual Moguls, Aerials, [Aerials Synchro](#), Ski Cross, Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Big Air, [Rail](#), Team Competitions
- 201.6.4 *Snowboard and Para Snowboard Events*
Slalom, Parallel Slalom, Giant Slalom, Parallel Giant Slalom, Halfpipe, Snowboard Cross, Big Air, Slopestyle, [Rail](#), Team Competitions, Banked Slalom, Dual Banked Slalom
- 206.7 Sponsorships by commercial betting companies**
- 206.7.1 FIS will not allocate Title / Presenting Sponsor rights to commercial betting companies.
- 206.7.2 Sponsorships of events by commercial betting companies is permitted subject to 206.7.43 below.
- 206.7.3 Advertising of ~~commercial betting companies~~ is allowed on bibs after approval by FIS, valid for 3 years or other betting activities on or with the athletes (head sponsors, competition suits, starting bibs) is prohibited with the exception of lotteries and companies operating non-sports betting only.
- 206.7.4 Approval by FIS will be given under the condition that the betting company/ies actively work/s against sport competition manipulation.
- ~~217.4 Competitors who have been drawn and are not present during the competition must be named by the TD in the TD report, indicating if possible, the reasons for absence.~~
- 217.45 Representatives of all the nations taking part must be invited to the draw.
- 217.56 If a competition has to be postponed by at least one day, the draw must be done again.
- 224.11 The following decisions of the Jury are not subject to appeal:**
- 224.11.1 Oral penalties imposed under 223.5 and 224.2
- 224.11.2 Monetary fines less than CHF 1'000.-- (One Thousand Swiss Francs) for single offence and a further CHF 2'500.-- for repeated offences by the same person.
- 224.11.3 Sanctions imposed on competitors in competition formats where 2 or more competitors simultaneously compete against one another in the field of play and where elimination heats lead to the determination of the final results ~~other than sanctions imposed during the final phase/ rounds of the competition (e.g. Small Final, Big Final).~~

301 Para Alpine Skiing Competition Levels

The following Para Alpine Skiing competitions are sanctioned by FIS and are subject to regulations regarding participation and/or qualification:

- Paralympic Winter Games (PWG) Level 0
- FIS World Ski Championships (WSC) Level 0
- FIS Para Alpine Skiing World Cups (WC) Level 0
- FIS Para Alpine Skiing Continental Cups (COC) Level 1
 - European Cup (EC)
 - North American Cup (NAC)
 - South American Cup (SAC)
 - Asian Cup (AC)
 - Australia New Zealand Cup (ANC)
- National Championships (NC) Level 2
- FIS Races (FIS) Level 3
- Entry League Level 4

303.2.3 Combining Sport Classes – Eligibility

In accordance with the IPC Classification Code, and general principles of classification, athletes will generally compete against athletes with the same Sport Class. In Para Alpine Skiing, athletes in different Sport Classes are grouped together into three (3) different Categories as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Sport Classes</u>
<u>Vision</u>	
<u>Impaired</u>	<u>B1, B2, B3</u>
<u>Standing</u>	<u>LW1, LW2, LW3, LW4, LW5/7-1, LW5/7-2, LW5/7-3, LW6/8-1, LW6/8-2, LW9-1, LW9-2</u>
<u>Sitting</u>	<u>LW10-1, LW10-2, LW11, LW12-1, LW12-2</u>

Athletes compete against other athletes from the same gender and category and the official results are determined as per art. 412.4

304.2 Race Entry and Participation Fee

304.2.1 The OC may decide to charge a race entry fee of maximum CHF 30 per athlete per race (including the official downhill training run). Such decision must be announced in the race invitation. The race entry fee is the amount that must be paid per athlete to the OC for each race, including the official downhill training run, specified on the programme.

304.2.2 In the case of an Alpine Combined event where the DH/SG will score as a separate race, a separate race entry fee must be paid. The OC must award this race separately. The race entry fee is non-refundable provided that the Jury cancels the race.

304.2.3 For the WSC competitions, FIS will charge a participation fee of CHF 55 fee per day for all accredited participants.

COMPETITION TYPE	RACE FEE AMOUNT
Paralympic Winter Games	N/A
FIS World Ski Championships	art. 304.2.3 applies
Technical: World Cup and Continental Cup races	CHF 15
Speed (Including Alpine Combined): all race levels except PWG and WSG	CHF 30
North American Cup Races and Southern Hemisphere Cup races	CHF 30
NC and FIS level races	CHF 15

304.3 Competition Sanction Calendar Fees (Organising Committee)

304.3.1 An Organising Committee must pay all competition sanction calendar fees to FIS according to art 202.1.2.6 or as per hosting agreement.

304.3.2 304.3.2 The calendar fees are published in the Rules for the FIS Calendar, FIS Calendar And Registration Fees available on the FIS Website: <https://www.fis-ski.com/en/inside-fis/document-library/general-regulations>.

~~These competition sanction fees are non-refundable.~~

304.3.3 ~~The fees for each type of race are as follows:~~

COMPETITION TYPE	FEE PER RACE
Paralympic Winter Games	N/A
FIS World Ski Championships	As determined by FIS
World Cup Training (Single price for all training runs)	CHF 2000
World Cup	CHF 1600
Continental Cups	CHF 750
NC and FIS Level races	CHF 250

304.3.4 ~~The official downhill training runs will be invoiced according to the competition level.~~

304.3.5 ~~The DH/SG from an AC race that also counts for DH/SG FIS Points will be invoiced as a FIS level race.~~

410.2.1 Correct Passage of the Gates

A gate must be passed according to art. ~~409.2.14~~34.14

424.3 All Jury decisions are final except those that may be protested under art. ~~641~~425. Appeals can be made as per art. ~~647.1.1~~432.1.1

~~1301.1 Competitors in classes LW 5/7 and LW 6/8 and LW 9 are not allowed to use the free limb in contact with the snow to regain balance creating a competitive advantage. Unintentional contact — such as a “hand drag” will not be considered a competitive advantage.~~

1302.2.1 ~~During competition~~After the official Start List has been published, only in the event of a Guide’s injury or illness, a competitor is permitted to change their Guide with the approval of the Jury. In all other circumstances an NSA must make a written request to the competition Jury explaining their reasons for the request. The Jury shall decide in their own discretion if such request shall be approved. In all cases, ~~the~~ replacement Guide must have a valid FIS Licence.

1302.2.2 ~~In all other circumstances a competitor must make a written request in advance to FIS explaining their reasons for changing Guides.~~

~~1302.2.3 Safe for art. 1302.2.1, in two (2) run events (Slalom, Giant Slalom and Alpine Combined), a competitor is not permitted to change Guides between the two (2) runs.~~

~~1302.2.4 If a Guide change is approved by the Jury, only one (1) Guide will be entitled to receive any medals or prizes associated with the respective competition.~~

1302.6 In Level 0 and 1 competitions, B1 competitors must ski behind their Guide.

In Level ~~1~~, 2 and 3 competitions, B1 competitors may ski either: (i) in front of; or (ii) behind their Guide. The competitor must inform the competition Jury before the start of each run whether they wish to ski in front of or behind their Guide on that run. ~~Subject to art. 1303.1,~~ ~~o~~Once they have started the run, they may not change their decision in this respect or switch position with their Guide during that run.

VI competitors in all other sport classes must always ski behind their Guide in all competitions. Physical contact between the Guide and competitor, including the equipment, during the race is not permitted. Any breach of this rule by an athlete and/or Guide will lead to disqualification.

~~1302.8 Competitors and their Guides are permitted to side-slip or snow plough at low speed, through the gates but never more than three (3) consecutive gates, during the official inspection, if approved by the Jury.~~

~~1303.1 All Guides must Guide VI competitors in accordance with art. 1302.6, subject to the following exception:~~

1303.1.1 ~~If a competitor is skiing behind their Guide, they are permitted to overtake the Guide only between the last gate and the Finish Line.~~

1500.1 Vertical Drop (“VD”); Number of Gates (“NG”); Direction Changes (“DC”) and Gate Panels.

Competition Event		PWG – WSC - World Cup	COC	FIS NC	<u>ENL</u>
DH	VD	450- 800m	400- 800m	1 Run: 400-500m 2 Run: 350-450m	<u>1 Run: 400-500m</u> <u>2 Run: 350-400m</u>
	NG	as required	as required	as required	<u>as required</u>
	Gate Panel	0,75 x 0,50 red (blue)	0,75 x 0,50 red (blue)	0,75 x 0,50 red (blue)	<u>0,75 x 0,50</u> <u>red (blue)</u>
SG	VD	400 – 650m	350 – 650m	350 – 500m	<u>300-500m</u>
	NG/DC	6% minimum Number of direction changes	6%minimum Number of direction changes	6% minimum Number of direction changes	<u>6% minimum</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>direction</u> <u>changes</u>
	Gate Panel	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	<u>0,75 x 0,50</u> <u>red & blue</u>
GS	VD	250 - 450	250 - 400	200 - 350	<u>200-250</u>
	DC	10% - 15% Number of direction changes	10% - 15% Number of direction changes	10% – 15% Number of direction changes	<u>10% – 15%</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>direction</u> <u>changes</u>
	Gate Panel	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	0,75 x 0,50 red & blue	<u>0,75 x 0,50</u> <u>red & blue</u>
SL	VD	140 - 220	120 - 200	80 – 140 3 Run: min 50m	<u>80-120</u> <u>3 Run: min 50</u>
	DC	28% - 35 % of the vertical drop +/-3 direction changes/	28% - 35 % of the vertical drop +/-3 direction changes/	28% - 35 % of the vertical drop +/-3 direction changes/	<u>28% - 35 % of</u> <u>the vertical</u> <u>drop +/-3</u> <u>direction</u> <u>changes/</u>
	Poles*	27mm	27mm	27mm	<u>27mm</u>

The Rules of the FIS Points

~~2.1.1.1 World Cup, Europa Cup and North American Trophies~~

~~In order to have trophies awarded the following criteria must be met:~~

~~2.1.1 World Cup requires events in at least two (2) different events and at least two (2) different regions. Regions are as follows:~~

~~Asia-Pacific~~

~~Europe~~

~~North America~~

~~Scandinavia~~

~~South America~~

~~2.1.1 Europa Cup and North American Cup requires events in at least two (2) different countries and at least two (2) different events.~~

2.5.1.2 In order to have World Cup trophies awarded for any of the events, at least two (2) different competitions in at least two (2) different **regions must** contingents should take place.

3.3.3.2 If the points are above the maximum value or missing, the maximum value will be used for the penalty calculation. [\(art. 3.3.4.1\)](#)

3.3.4 **Fewer Than Five Competitors: Maximum value**

3.3.4.1 If there are fewer than five competitors with FIS Points amongst the first ten of the result list, or there are not five competitors who started with FIS Points, then those competitors without FIS Points, e.g. the remaining competitors, will receive the maximum value:

- Downhill: [330280](#)
- Super G: [270280](#)
- Slalom: [165240](#)
- Giant Slalom: [220240](#)
- Alpine Combined: [270280](#)

3.3.4.2 If fewer than three competitors with FIS Points are ranked within the five competitors who are taken into consideration or at least three competitors without FIS Points are ranked, the competition will be considered for FIS Points with an ~~then the applied~~ maximum penalty as per (art. 3.4.) ~~will be applied. At least three competitors must have FIS Points (irrespective of the number of points) and at least five competitors have to be ranked. If competitors' FIS Points included in the best five exceed these maximum values, the maximum points value is applied. If a competition has two athletes or fewer on the start list are ranked, then the competition will not be considered for FIS Points.~~

~~3.3.7.1 If Penalty Can't Be Calculated~~

~~If a competition has three or four athletes on the start list and the penalty can't be calculated based on the procedure described above (art. 3.3.4), then the maximum penalty will be applied (art. 3.4). If a competition has two~~

~~athletes or fewer on the start list then the competition will not be considered for FIS Points.~~

3.4 Minimum/Maximum Penalty-Value

Description	Race Level	Category Adder	Minimum Penalty	Maximum Penalty
PWG, WSC, WC	0	0	0	0 (25*)
COC	1	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>50175</u>
NC	2	<u>05</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>125250</u>
FIS Race	3	<u>010</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>150300</u>
<u>ENL</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>300</u>

Equipment Specifications for Para Snow Sports

2.1.5 SPECIFICATIONS OF COMPETITION EQUIPMENT APPLICABLE TO ALL FIS SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS.

- VI B1 athletes (men) may use 155 cm skis for SL
- Ski length must be marked on the skis by the manufacturer
- SG skis may be used in DH competitions at all race levels
- VI B1 athletes may continue to use GS skis [for speed events](#)
- ~~Ski length must be marked on the skis by the manufacturer.~~

2.2.1 SAFETY BINDINGS

Safety bindings function as strain limiters. That is, these devices transfer specific demands occurring during skiing to an acceptable limit, and when this limit is overstepped, they release their firm hold on the [ski boot](#).

2.2.7 CRASH HELMETS

The use of crash helmets is compulsory for all events.^[SEP] Only helmets specifically designed for Alpine ski racing with the embedded FIS sticker are permitted. Helmets must have a shell and padding which cover the head and ears. Only in Slalom events soft ear helmets are allowed. Helmets with edges that protrude are not permitted. Helmets cannot be modified.

**** [Exception is use of certified full face cycle helmets for sit ski athletes in SL.](#)**