



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

PARA KARATE

CLASSIFICATION RULES

EFFECTIVE FROM 01.03.2021



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PURPOSE OF THESE RULES

These Athlete Classification Rules (referred to generally as “the Rules”) provide a framework within which the process of “Classification” may take place. The term “Classification” refers to a structure for Competition, the aim of which is to ensure that an Athlete’s Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that Athletes compete equitably with each other. The purpose of Classification is to minimise the impact of eligible Impairment types on the outcome of the competition, so that Athletes who succeed in competition are those who have enhanced their abilities to to the best effect.

PART ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1. ADOPTION

- 1.1.1. These Rules are intended to implement the provisions of the IPC Classification Code for the sport of Karate.
- 1.1.2. These Classification Rules refer to Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.1.3. These Classification Rules form part of the Para Karate Rules and Regulations.
- 1.1.4. The Classification Rules are supplemented by Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from the Para Karate Commission and can be amended by the Para Karate Commission from time to time.

1.2. APPLICATION

- 1.2.1. These Rules shall apply to:
 - 1.1.1. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/ or licensed with WKF as defined in the WKF Para Karate Kata Competition Rules.
 - 1.1.2. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel participating in such capacity in Events and Competitions recognised by WKF or any of its members or affiliate organisations or licensees.
 - 1.1.3. It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and Classification Personnel to acquaint themselves with all of the requirements of these Rules, the IPC Classification Code (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) and the other sections of the IPC Handbook that apply to Classification, including the IPC Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale for Classification in Paralympic Sport (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 4.4)

1.3. INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

- 1.3.1. Athlete Evaluation that is conducted by WKF in full compliance with these Rules is referred to as International Classification.
- 1.3.2. WKF will provide Athletes with an opportunity to undertake International Classification by appointing Classifiers certified pursuant to Article Two to conduct Athlete Evaluation at WKF



Recognized Competitions, and by providing reasonable notice of such International Classification opportunities to Athletes and WKF Member National Federations.

- 1.3.3. An Athlete will only be permitted to undergo International Classification if he or she has been registered by the WKF National Federation at the competition where the International Classification takes place.

1.4. INTERPRETATION, COMMENCEMENT AND AMENDMENT

- 1.4.1. These Rules shall always be interpreted and applied in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Classification Code.
- 1.4.2. These Rules shall come into full force and effect on the Effective Date as specified by WKF.
- 1.4.3. Amendments to these Rules shall be approved and shall come into effect in the manner prescribed by WKF. WKF may at any time amend, update, or otherwise alter the text, meaning and effect of the Appendices independently of these Rules.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

2.1. ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1.1. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include the following:

- a) to be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) to participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
- c) to ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to Para Karate;
- d) to cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- e) to actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

2.2. ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

2.2.1. The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

- a) to be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) to use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) to assist in the development, management, and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- d) to cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

2.3. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

2.3.1. The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include:



- a) to have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) to use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) to assist in the development, management, and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- d) to cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

PART TWO: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

3. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

- 3.1. Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Rules. This Article Three explains how WKF Classification Personnel assists in the delivery of classification under these Rules.
- 3.2. WKF should appoint the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have an essential role in the administration, organization, and execution of classification for Para Karate:

3.3. HEAD OF CLASSIFICATION

- 3.3.1. The Head of Classification will be appointed by the WKF President upon proposal of the WKF Para Karate Commission
- 3.3.2. The Head of Classification is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of all classification matters for Para Karate.
- 3.3.3. The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier.
- 3.3.4. The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by WKF.
- 3.3.5. The Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) can be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.
- 3.3.6. The Head of Classification in conjunction with WKF Classification Administrator is responsible for appointing Classification Panel(s) who will conduct International Classification at Recognised Competitions.

3.4. PARA KARATE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

- 3.4.1. The Para Karate Classification Committee shall consist of classifiers impairments groups, technical classifiers, and others as deemed appropriate. Ad-hoc members may be appointed by the Head of Classification in conjunction with the WKF Classification Administrator.

3.5. CLASSIFICATION ADMINISTRATOR

- 3.5.1. The Classification Administrator (CA) is the person responsible for keeping and updating the WKF Master List of all Athletes which details such matters as the Athletes name, Nationality, Sport Class, Sport Class Status and Compensation Score. The CA co-ordinates the classification process in collaboration with the Head of Classification and the Classification Committee and is



the contact point between Athletes, Coaches, Officials and Classifiers. The CA is responsible for keeping and updating the WKF Master List of Certified Classifiers. The WKF Masters List of Athletes, Classifiers, Athlete Support Personnel and Translators will be administered through the WKF official software provider.

3.6. CLASSIFIERS

3.6.1.A Classifier is a person authorised and certified by the WKF Para Karate Commission as being competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation. WKF Para Karate Commission will specify from time to time how it shall certify Classifiers.

3.6.2.WKF classifiers are required, as appropriate, to assist in the research, development and clarification of the Athlete Classification Rules and Sport Class profiles for Para Karate, participate in Classifier workshops arranged by WKF and/or the IPC from time to time; and attend such Classifier training as requested from time to time by the WKF.

3.7. CHIEF CLASSIFIERS

3.7.1.A Chief Classifier is a Classifier who is appointed by WKF Para Karate Commission to act as the senior Classifier present at a specific WKF Sanctioned or promoted Para Karate Competition.

3.7.2.The Head of Classification may be appointed as Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

3.7.3.A Chief Classifier is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of classification matters at a Competition. A Chief Classifier may be required by WKF Para Karate Commission to do the following:

3.7.3.1. Identify those Athletes who will be competing at that Competition who will require Athlete Evaluation.

3.7.3.2. Supervise Classifiers to ensure that the Rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition.

3.7.3.3. Manage the Protest process as required by Part Six.

3.7.3.4. Liaise with the relevant Competition organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.

3.7.4.A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified WKF officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

3.8. TRAINEE CLASSIFIERS

3.8.1.WKF Head of Classification may appoint Trainee Classifiers so that they may be certified as Classifiers.

3.8.2.Trainee Classifiers may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under supervision of a Classification Panel to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies to be certified by WKF PKC as a Classifier.



4. CLASSIFIER COMPETENCIES, QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. WKF PKC certifies Classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct Athlete Evaluation in pursuant to Athletes with Physical, Visual, and Intellectual Impairment.
- 4.2. WKF PKC must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3. WKF requires Classifiers to have one of the below qualifications to be considered for certification as WKF Classifier:
 - 4.3.1. a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Impairment category which WKF at its sole discretion deems acceptable, e.g., physicians and physiotherapists for Athletes with Physical Impairment, ophthalmologists, and optometrists for athletes with Visual Impairment, and psychologists, neurologists or psychiatrists for athletes with Intellectual Impairment.
 - 4.3.2. an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the sport of Karate or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical, and sport-specific expertise, which WKF at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
- 4.4. Only classifiers that fulfil the requirements of Article 4.3 are entitled to conduct a Physical Assessment (for athletes with physical impairment).
- 4.5. All Classification Personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated from time to time in the IPC Code of Ethics and the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct. If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IPC Code of Ethics or the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct, WKF PKC will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorization. WKF PKC may also make such recommendations as it sees fit to IPC and any other relevant bodies as regards any certification held by the relevant Classification Personnel to act as Classification Personnel in respect of other sports.
- 4.6. The process of Classifier Certification is specified in Regulations of Administration of the International Classifiers of Para Karate.

5. CLASSIFICATION PANELS

- 5.1. A Classification Panel is a body that is appointed by the WKF President upon proposal of the WKF Para Karate Commission to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with these Rules. A Classification Panel should be comprised of a minimum of two (2) Classifiers, one medical and one technical.
- 5.2. WKF and competition organizers will whenever possible ensure that at least one Classification Panel is able to conduct Athlete Evaluation for each Impairment category (Physical Impairment, Visual Impairment and Intellectual Impairment, assuming that Events are offered for all three Impairment categories). In special circumstances when only one panel is present only New Athletes will be seen, and no protests will be accepted for that competition.
- 5.3. Classification Personnel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel present at a Competition or otherwise, as such a situation could create any actual or perceived bias or

Conflict of Interest. Classification Personnel must disclose to WKF Para Karate Commission any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel to the Head of Classification.

- 5.4. WKF will ensure that Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at a Competition will not have any official responsibilities within Para Karate Kata competition other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.
- 5.5. A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it considers in its sole discretion that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

PART THREE: ATHLETE EVALUATION

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1. Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel so that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class, Sport Class Status, and Compensation Score (Extra points).
- 6.2. Athlete evaluation will take place prior to World or Continental Championships in the same location, ideally one or two days before its start.

6.3. ATHLETE EVALUATION PROCESS

The Athlete Evaluation process may encompass the following:

- 6.3.1. Physical Assessment: The Classification Panel should conduct a Physical Assessment of the Athlete, to establish that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that meets the relevant Minimum Disability Criteria; and
- 6.3.2. Technical Assessment: The Classification Panel should conduct a Technical Assessment of the Athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of the Para Karate in which the Athlete participates; and
- 6.3.3. Observation Assessment: The Classification Panel may conduct Observation Assessments, which shall involve observing an Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the Para Karate. This may occur during training or first appearance in the competition.
- 6.3.4. The means by which Physical, Technical and Observation Assessment are to be conducted are specified in the Appendices to these Rules.
- 6.3.5. **Pre-Competition Athlete Evaluation: Intellectually Impaired athletes must enter the competition with predetermined eligibility as per the VIRTUS Master List. This only applies to event and Championships organized by the WKF.**

6.4. ATHLETE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements apply to Athlete Evaluation:

- 6.4.1. The Athlete and his or her accredited coach are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.



- 6.4.2. Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes will be conducted in English. If the Athlete and/or the Athlete Support Personnel require an interpreter, the Athlete's WKF National Team will be responsible for arranging the attendance of an interpreter.
- 6.4.3. One personal assistant (in addition to any required interpreter) may accompany an Athlete during Athlete Evaluation. This person should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sporting history and must be a member of the Athlete's National Team or must be otherwise authorized in advance by the Chief Classifier to attend the Athlete's Evaluation.
- 6.4.4. If the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment, a parent or guardian should accompany him or her, as a registered Personal Assistant.
- 6.4.5. The Athlete must accept the terms of the WKF Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation. The Athlete must provide identification, such as a passport, that verifies the Athlete's identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel.
- 6.4.6. All Athletes must use the same sportswear (karate gi and shoes if necessary) and equipment for classification as they will use during competitions, including blindfolds, wheelchairs, sport glasses and any leg straps (as per Section 3 of WKF Para Karate Kata Competition Rules, "Equipment in Classification").
- 6.4.7. The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with the following documentation (in English or with a certified English translation):
- Athlete accreditation
 - Athlete photo identification card or passport
 - Original MDF, as provided prior to competition registration
 - Original Diagnostic Report, medical proof of diagnosis as described in the MDF, as provided with the registration
 - Any additional supporting documentation, such as medical exams
- 6.4.8. The Classification Panel may use video footage and/or any other records (including pre-existing video footage and/or records) to assist it in carrying out Athlete Evaluation. In addition, the Classification Panel may video-record any part of the Athlete Evaluation if it considers that such recording is necessary to enable it to complete the Athlete Evaluation. Any such recording will be used for the purposes of Athlete Evaluation only but may be used for research and education purposes with the Athlete's prior consent.
- 6.4.9. The Classification outcomes will be published at the Coach Briefing by the Chief Classifier or a person authorized by the Chief Classifier.

6.5. MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC FORMS

- 6.5.1. Medical Diagnostic Forms (MDF) are documents created by the WKF to effectively summarize diagnostic information of the Para Athlete. This document will provide information about the eligibility of the athlete and valuable information to WKF classifiers to better understand the deserved extra points that will later be given.
- 6.5.2. In the case of wheelchair athletes and visually impaired athletes, the MDF has to be completed by a registered medical doctor.

6.5.3. In the case of athletes with intellectual impairments, the MDF's must be completed by a registered psychologist, neurologist or psychiatrist. The documents for the IQ Test and a Diagnostic Report as described in the MDF have to be attached.

7. ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT

- 7.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by WKF must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2. Appendices One, Two and Three of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport governed by WKF.
- 7.3. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One, Two or Three is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Four includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

8. MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

- 8.1. An Athlete who wishes to compete in a WKF Para Karate competition must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment as are defined in Appendices One, Two and Three.
- 8.2. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

9. FAILURE TO ATTEND ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 9.1. If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation, but fails to do so, the Classification Panel will report the fact of the non-attendance to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend Athlete Evaluation, specify a revised time and date for Athlete Evaluation at the relevant Competition.
- 9.2. If the Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on this second occasion, or is, in the view of the Chief Classifier, unable to provide a reasonable explanation of his or her non-attendance, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

10. SUSPENSION OF ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 10.1. A Classification Panel may suspend the Athlete Evaluation in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 10.1.1. if the Athlete fails to meet any of the requirements detailed in these Rules for attendance at Athlete Evaluation (see Article 9 above);
 - 10.1.2. if the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation fairly;
 - 10.1.3. if an Athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation and the Classification Panel considers that the absence of such medical documentation will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation fairly;
 - 10.1.4. if an Athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) that limits or prohibits the Athlete from complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during the Athlete



- Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation fairly (e.g., pain); or a condition or situation which places his or her health or that of the Classification Panel at risk (e.g., transmissible disease);
- 10.1.5. if an Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given to him or her by a Classification Panel (or a Chief Classifier or the relevant Head of Classification) during the course of the Athlete Evaluation to an extent that Classification Panel considers that this means it cannot conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. Such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of Non-Cooperation. (see IPC Classification Code, Article 10);
- 10.1.6. if an Athlete's presentation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with other information made available to the Classification Panel to the extent that the Classification Panel considers that this means it cannot conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner.
- 10.2. If a Classification Panel suspends an Athlete Evaluation the following steps will be taken:
- 10.2.1. the Classification Panel will explain the reason for the suspension to the Athlete and the Athlete's WKF National Member Federation and detail the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete;
- 10.2.2. the Classification Panel will report the fact of the suspension to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier will specify a time and date for resumption of the Athlete Evaluation on the condition that the Athlete takes the remedial action specified by the Classification Panel.
- 10.3. If the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation having taken the remedial action to the Classification Panel's satisfaction, the Classification Panel will attempt to complete the Athlete Evaluation and allocate a Sport Class, Sport Class Status and Compensation Score. This procedure will be subject to the Classification Panel's right to further suspend Athlete Evaluation according to Article 10.1.
- 10.4. If the Athlete fails to take the remedial action required to the Classification Panel's satisfaction and within the time specified by the Chief Classifier, the Classification Panel will terminate the Athlete Evaluation and WKF Para Karate Commission will designate the Athlete as being "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) within the Classification Master List for Para Karate. This designation will preclude the Athlete from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed. WKF will stipulate from time to time how this designation impacts on performance recognition.
- 10.5. The Athlete and/or Athlete Accompanying Personnel may be subject to further investigation regarding Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to Part Eight.

11. OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

- 11.1. Athletes must be aware that they will be continuously observed during the competition period following the Physical and Technical Assessment. Discrepancies observed between the athletes' physical performance and the technical assessment may lead to changing of the Extra Points, at the commissions' discretion.

12. OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND FIRST APPEARANCE

- 12.1. Observation Assessment is conducted during the Athlete's First Appearance at the competition.



- 12.2. First Appearance is the first time that an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition. First Appearance in one Event within a Sport Class shall apply to all other Events within the same Sport Class.
- 12.3. After satisfactorily completing Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel will allocate the Athlete a Sport Class, designate the Athlete with a Sport Class Status and Compensation Score.

13. CHANGES OF SPORT CLASS FOLLOWING FIRST APPEARANCE

- 13.1. If an Athlete makes his or her First Appearance with a Sport Class, the Athlete may be allocated a different Sport Class after the Observation Assessment is completed.
- 13.2. The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results are detailed in the Model of Best Practice on Sport Class Changes following First Appearance (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

PART FOUR: SPORT CLASS, SPORT CLASS STATUS AND COMPENSATION SCORE

Classification in Para Karate consists of a Sport Class allocation and a score Compensation System to an Athlete by a Classification Panel following Athlete Evaluation.

14. SPORT CLASS

- 14.1. A Sport Class is a sporting competition category that is allocated to an Athlete following Athlete Evaluation. It is allocated based on the existence of an Eligible Impairment and compliance with the Minimum Disability Criteria, and the degree to which Impairment impacts upon sport performance.
- 14.2. A Sport Class and Extra Points will be allocated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel following Athlete Evaluation. This cannot be allocated to an Athlete in any other circumstances. The decision of the Classification Panel to allocate a Sport Class is final and subject to challenge only as prescribed in Part Six and Part Seven of these Rules.
- 14.3. A Sport Class that enables an Athlete to compete in the sport of Karate will be allocated if that Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that complies with the Minimum Disability Criteria set by WKF PKC. The requirements regarding Eligible Impairment and Minimum Disability Criteria are detailed in the Appendices of these Rules.
- 14.4. If an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment or has an Eligible Impairment that does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, he or she will not be eligible to compete within the sport of Para Karate. If an Athlete is not eligible to compete, he or she will be allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (see Part Five).
- 14.5. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the Sport Class designations as explained in the Appendices to these Rules.
- 14.6. The WKF conducts Para Karate competitions in Kata, therefore Classes have the "K" prefix. The following Sport Classes are used for Para Karate:

Impairment	Sport Classes
Visual Impairment	K10
Intellectual Disability	K21
Intellectual Disability	K22
Wheelchair Athletes	K30

15. SPORT CLASS STATUS

- 15.1. An Athlete's Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation again in the future, and whether (and by which party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to challenge by way of Protest as prescribed in Article Seven of these Rules.
- 15.2. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete will be one of the following:

Sport Class Status New	N
Sport Class Status Review	R
Status Review with a Fixed review Date	RFD
Sport Class Status Confirmed	C
Not eligible	NE

15.3. Athletes with Sport Class Status New (N)

- 15.3.1. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status New (N) if a National Body has allocated an Entry Sport Class to him or her, and the Athlete has not completed International Classification yet.
- 15.3.2. An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any WKF Sanctioned or promoted Competition where Classification is offered.

15.4. Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (R)

- 15.4.1. The Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) if he or she has completed Athlete Evaluation and been allocated a Sport Class, but the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before the Athlete can be designated as Sport Class Confirmed (C). This may be, for a range of reasons, for example, because the Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment(s), or, given his or her age, has Impairment(s) that may not have stabilized.
- 15.4.2. Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Review (R) if that Athlete is entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Part Five).
- 15.4.3. An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at a Sanctioned or promoted Competition where Classification is offered, save where the provisions in these Rules relating to the Fixed Review Date apply (see Articles 15.5 and 16.6).



15.4.4. The Sport Class of any Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) may be subject to Protest by a National Body as prescribed in Part Six of these Rules.

15.5. Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

15.5.1. Classification Panel will designate an Athlete with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if he or she has completed Athlete Evaluation and has been allocated a Sport Class, and the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Impairment and/or Activity Limitations are sufficiently stable so that the Athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed.

15.5.2. Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if that Athlete is not entitled to a further Athlete Evaluation under these Rules (see Article Six).

15.5.3. An Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any Competition.

15.5.4. The Sport Class of any Athlete who enters a Competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) may be subject to Protest pursuant to the provisions in Article 31 of these Rules relating to Protests under Exceptional Circumstances.

15.6. Review with a Fixed review Date

15.6.1. A Classification Panel that allocates Sport Class Status Review may also, if it considers it appropriate to do so, nominate a "Fixed Review Date".

15.6.2. If a Fixed Review Date is set in this manner, then

15.6.3. the Athlete will not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation at any competition prior to the Fixed Review Date; and

15.6.4. The Athlete will retain the Sport Class and Extra Points assigned to that Athlete and be permitted to compete with that Sport Class.

15.6.5. The Athlete may, at his or her own request, attend Athlete Evaluation before the Fixed Review Date pursuant to the Medical Review Process described in these Rules (see Article 18).

15.6.6. The Fixed Review Date will be the first day of the first day before an official Para Karate Kata competition indicated by the Classification Panel or an alternative date set by the Classification Panel.

16. CHANGES TO SPORT CLASS CRITERIA

16.1. If WKF PKC changes any Sport Class criteria, compensation score system and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:

16.1.1. WKF may re-assign any Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed with Sport Class Status Review in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation; or

16.1.2. WKF may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete in order for the Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation at the earliest available opportunity; and

16.2. In both instances the relevant WKF National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practical.



17. ERRORS REGARDING SPORT CLASS STATUS

- 17.1.1. If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Sport Class Status in manifest error and/or clear breach of these Rules, he or she shall advise the Athlete and the relevant WKF National Federation as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief; and
- 17.1.2. immediately amend the Athlete's Sport Class Status and advise the Athlete and the relevant WKF National Federation. WKF will make the appropriate amendment to the Classification Master List.

18. MEDICAL REVIEW: APPLICATION TO UNDERGO ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 18.1. An Athlete who has reason to believe that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the profile for his or her Sport Class should have his or her Sport Class reviewed. The means by which this can take place are referred to in these Rules as "the Medical Review Process" and the means by which a request for such review are referred to as "a Medical Review Request".
- 18.2. A WKF National Member Federation must make a Medical Review Request. A Medical Review Request cannot be made by an Athlete.
- 18.3. A Medical Review Request may be made if an Athlete has been allocated:
 - 18.3.1. A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), or
 - 18.3.2. Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R), if the Athlete has been allocated a Fixed Review Date
- 18.4. A Medical Review Request must be made by completing the WKF Medical Review Request Form and by following its instructions. The Athlete and his or her WKF National Federation must ensure that the Medical Review Request abides by the following provisions:
 - 18.4.1. it must explain that the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed since the last Athlete Evaluation to an extent that the Athlete's Sport Class or Compensation Score might not be accurate anymore;
 - 18.4.2. it must be completed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation;
 - 18.4.3. a non-refundable fee must be paid. See Appendix Five Table of Fees
- 18.5. Each Medical Review Request will be assessed by WKF PKC to ensure that all requisite information, documentation, and fee have been provided. Once the Medical Review Request is complete, the Head of Classification will, in conjunction with such third parties as he or she considers appropriate, decide whether the Medical Review Request should be upheld.
- 18.6. If the Medical Review Request is upheld the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended from Confirmed to Review; or the Athlete's Fixed Review Date will be set aside; and the Athlete will be requested to undertake Athlete Evaluation at the next available opportunity.



19. PROVISION INVOLVING MULTIPLE SPORT CLASSES

- 19.1. Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in ('the preferred Sport Class'). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance.
- 19.2. IPC's general principle is that an Athlete is allocated one Sport Class only, which is either based on a Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment.
- 19.3. The Model of Best Practice on Choice of Sport Class for Athletes with Multiple Impairments (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) should be considered by any Athlete who believes that he or she is eligible for more than one Sport Class.

20. THE COMPENSATION SCORE SYSTEM

- 20.1. A score compensation system consists of Extra Points, which are issued to an Athlete according to the influence of his or her impairment when performing the Kata. This limitation in performance will be assessed by expert WKF Classifiers during the Classification Session.
- 20.2. The Classification Panel will give the Athlete with Sport Class status Confirmed (C) a Compensation Score (Extra Points) from 0.00 to 3.00 (with two decimal places), that will later be added to the Judges' Score, as explained in the WKF Para Karate Kata Competition Rules Scoring section.
- 20.3. The Classification Panel reserves the right to set the upper limit of the compensation score for each Sport Class individually, depending on the differences among Athletes and the overall level of disability within the Sport Class.

***NOTE:** The Compensation Score System will be used until the creation of a higher number of homogenous Sports Classes.*

PART FIVE: RULES REGARDING ATHLETES WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

21. RULES REGARDING ATHLETES WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

- 21.1. An Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment, and that Eligible Impairment must comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria set by WKF Para Karate Commission in order to be eligible to compete. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not have such Eligible Impairment, and/or that Eligible Impairment does not comply with the Minimal Disability Criteria, that Athlete will not be eligible to compete.
- 21.2. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete is not eligible to compete the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class **Not Eligible (NE)**.
- 21.3. If a Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) the Athlete will be entitled to undergo a second Athlete Evaluation by a second separate Classification Panel at a subsequent event. Pending this second assessment the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.



- 21.4. If there is no opportunity for a separate Athlete Evaluation to be undertaken at that Competition, WKF will take all reasonable steps to ensure the second Athlete Evaluation is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
- 21.5. If a second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete is not eligible the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at any future Competitions. The Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed and there is no further right to Protest unless made under Exceptional Circumstances pursuant to Articles 26.
- 21.6. A WKF Member National Federation may request that an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) undertake Athlete Evaluation, but only by way of a Medical Review Request as defined in these Rules.
- 21.7. While an Athlete with Sport Class NE will be not eligible to compete within the sport of Para Karate, it will not affect his or her ability to compete in other Para Sports, subject to their rules on Classification.
- 21.8. If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of Para Karate.

PART SIX: PROTESTS

22. PROTEST

- 22.1. The term "Protest" is used in these Rules refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the allocation of a Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 22.2. A WKF National Member Federation may make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class, Sport Class Status and Compensation Score of any Athlete who entered the relevant Competition where Classification is offered with either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 22.3. The decision that is the subject of the Protest is referred to in this part of the Rules as "the Protested Decision", and the Athlete in respect of whose Sport Class the Protest is made is referred to as "the Protested Athlete".
- 22.4. No WKF National Federation may make a Protest in respect of any Athlete who entered the relevant Competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 22.5. The Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition may make a Protest in respect of any Athlete regardless of their Sport Class Status and Compensation Score pursuant to the provisions contained in these Rules regarding Protests under Exceptional Circumstances (see Article 26).
- 22.6. An Athlete's Sport Class and Compensation Score may only be protested once in any individual Competition, unless an additional Protest is made pursuant to the provisions concerning Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 22.7. The WKF National Federation Member making a Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.



23. PROTESTS SUBMISSIONS

- 23.1. A Protest may only be submitted by a WKF National Federation representative (e.g. coach), an Athlete cannot submit a Protest.
- 23.2. The Chief Classifier, or a person designated by Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition, will be the person authorized to receive Protests on behalf of Para Karate.
- 23.3. If a Classification decision is published during the Classification Evaluation Period, the WKF National Member Federation must make a Protest within one (1) hour of the Classification decision being published. If a Protest is made during Competition following completion of an Athlete's Observation in Competition, the Protest must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes of the Decision being published.
- 23.4. Protests must be made by way of a designated Protest Form that will be made available by WKF at the relevant Competition. The Protest Form will prescribe certain information and documentation that must be submitted with the Protest form. This will include the following:
- Name, Nation of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
 - The details of the Protested Decision;
 - An explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the WKF National Federation believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest;
 - The signature of the authorized WKF National Member Federation; and
 - A Protest Fee of 500 CHF(Five hundred Swiss Francs).
- 23.5. Upon receipt of the Protest Form the Chief Classifier will conduct a review of the Protest submission. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not bona fide or is based on mere assertion without credible supporting evidence and/or the Protest submission is otherwise not in compliance with these Rules, the Chief Classifier shall decline the protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the WKF National Federation as soon as is possible. The Protest fee will be retained by WKF.
- 23.6. If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the Member National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances. If a WKF National Member Federation resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply. A second Protest fee must be paid.

24. Resolving a Protest

- 24.1. If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Classification Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Athlete. This Classification Panel is referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 24.2. A Protest Panel should comprise, at a minimum, the same number of Classifiers as those comprised in the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision. Only if practicable given all the circumstances of the Competition, the Protest Panel should consist of Classifiers of equal or greater level of experience and/or certification as those who comprised the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision.



- 24.3. The Protest Panel must not include any person who was a Member of the Classification Panel that made the Protest Decision. Further, it should not include any person who has been a Member of any Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protest Decision.
- 24.4. WKF Para Karate Commission will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 24.5. The Protest Panel will conduct Athlete Evaluation of the Protested Athlete according to the provisions concerning Athlete Evaluation in these Rules.
- 24.6. The Protest Panel may make enquires of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner. In addition, it may seek medical, sport, technical or scientific expertise in its conduct of Athlete Evaluation.
- 24.7. The Protest Panel will conclude Athlete Evaluation and, if appropriate, allocate a Sport Class. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 24.8. If the Protest is upheld and the Sport Class of the Athlete is changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the WKF National Federation. If the Protest is not upheld and if the Sport Class of the Athlete is not changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest fee will be retained by WKF.
- 24.9. The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest. According to Article 6.3, the Athlete is given the opportunity to a re-assessment if the Sport Class allocated by the Protest Panel is Not Eligible.

25. Protests under Exceptional Circumstances

- 25.1. A Protest in Exceptional Circumstances may be made in respect of an Athlete if the Chief Classifier believes that because of exceptional circumstances, the Athlete should undertake Athlete Evaluation in order that his or her Sport Class may be reviewed.
- 25.2. Examples of exceptional circumstances that may arise that may warrant an Athlete participating in Athlete Evaluation include, but are not limited to:
 - 25.2.1. An obvious and permanent change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete;
 - 25.2.2. An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
 - 25.2.3. An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability; or
 - 25.2.4. Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation.
- 25.3. The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:
 - 25.3.1. The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant WKF National Federation that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
 - 25.3.2. The Chief Classifier will provide a written summary of the reasons for the making of the Protest, which at a minimum shall explain why the Chief Classifier believes that the Athlete's Sport Class



appears to be inconsistent with the Athlete's perceived Impairment(s) and/or Activity Limitation(s) and/ or with these Rules;

25.3.3. The Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect;

25.3.4. The process for making such a Protest shall be the same as that stated in these Rules with respect to Protests made by WKF National Member Federation with the exception that the Chief Classifier is not required to pay a Protest fee.

26. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

26.1. If a Protest is made and accepted at a Competition, but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition (because, for example, it is not possible to form an appropriately constituted Protest Panel), the following provisions will apply:

26.1.1. If the Athlete has been allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), that will be amended to Sport Class Status Review (R);

26.1.2. The Athlete will be permitted (or required) to compete in his or her current Sport Class, pending the resolution of the Protest;

26.1.3. WKF will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity, for example, at the next Competition that the Athlete intends competing at and where International Classification is offered.

PART SEVEN: APPEALS

An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

27. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

27.1. An Appeal may only be made by a National Federation.

28. Appeals

28.1. If a National Federation considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class or Compensation Score, it may submit an Appeal.

28.2. The Appeal Body will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.

28.3. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with these Classification Rules.

28.4. The term "Appellant" as used in these Classification Rules refers to the party submitting the Appeal on behalf of the Athlete.

28.5. The term "Respondent" used in these Classification Rules refers to the WKF, as being responsible for the procedures and Decision which are being appealed to.

28.6. A Decision will be considered with procedural errors if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in the Classification Rules and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the Decision such that it must be set aside.

28.7. The Appeal Body must abide by the following.



- 28.7.1. An Appeal Body should consist of two WKF Classifiers and a representative of the WKF Appeals Jury. The Appeal Body is appointed by the WKF. The WKF will also appoint the Chair of the Appeal Body.
- 28.7.2. An Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review Classification Decisions in order to:
- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed.
 - Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.
- 28.8. No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of the Sport Class, Sport Class Status or Compensation Score. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a Classification Decision by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.
- 28.9. The Appeal Body shall hear Appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have been exhausted.
- 28.10. The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant Decision must be upheld, or to set the Decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any Decision and has no power to amend a Sport Class or Compensation Score.
- 28.11. The Appeal Body will only review the process by which these Decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been fair and in accordance with the Classification Rules.
- 28.12. The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.

28.13. APPEAL PROCESS

- 28.14. A National Federation may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to the WKF. A Notice of Appeal should be submitted to the WKF by e-mail or ordinary mail. The WKF shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the opposing party.
- 28.15. A Notice of Appeal must:
- 28.15.1. Be made within fifteen (15) days of the Decision being complained of unless the WKF agrees otherwise;
 - 28.15.2. Specify the party who is requesting the Appeal (the Appellant).
 - 28.15.3. Provide the name and nation of the Athlete whose Sport Class or Compensation Score is the subject of the Appeal.
 - 28.15.4. Identify the Decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the Decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;
 - 28.15.5. Specify the grounds for the Appeal;
 - 28.15.6. Indicate what, or that all, remedies have been used to resolve the case.
 - 28.15.7. Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;
 - 28.15.8. To the extent possible, identify the person or persons responsible for the Decision being appealed against ("the Respondent").
 - 28.15.9. Be submitted with the fee of CHF 500 (Five hundred Swiss Francs) or equivalent. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.



- 28.15.10. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, the WKF must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.
- 28.15.11. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if all other available remedies have not been exhausted, the WKF shall issue a written Decision dismissing the Appeal.
- 28.15.12. If a National Federation could have made a Protest with respect to the allocation of a Sport Class, but fails to do so, it cannot make any Appeal if it was aware of the grounds upon which it wishes to make an Appeal at the time that it could have made a Protest. An Appeal may be made if a National Federation becomes aware of such grounds after the time frames for making a Protest have expired.
- 28.16. Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.
- 28.17. If all other available remedies have been exhausted, the WKF shall:
- Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purpose of hearing the Appeal.
 - Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (The Opposing Party).
 - Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving the Notice of Appeal submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence, and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the Appeal.
 - Set a Hearing location and date: The Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

28.18. APPEAL HEARING

- 28.18.1. The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.
- 28.18.2. The Appeal Body may designate counsel to assist in the Hearing.
- 28.18.3. The WKF, and the relevant parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel and if necessary, to engage an interpreter.
- 28.18.4. Not more than two representatives of any party excluding the Athlete and any interpreter shall be entitled to participate in the Hearing.
- 28.18.5. Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the Appeal Body's discretion) to call witnesses.
- 28.18.6. Each Party should bear their own costs of the process.

28.19. APPEAL DECISION

- 28.19.1. As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written Decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the Decision



appealed from or set aside the Decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its Decision.

28.19.2. If the Appeal Body sets aside a Decision, it may if appropriate make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by the WKF in light of that Decision.

28.19.3. The Decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal. The Appeal Body shall issue a written Decision resolving any Appeal after the Hearing. The Decision shall be provided to all parties, to the WKF and to the relevant National Federation(s). The Event organising committee shall be also informed about the outcome of the Appeal (in the case of Appeals conducted in connection with an Event).

28.19.4. The WKF shall be responsible for ensuring the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

28.20. CONFIDENTIALITY

28.20.1. Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal:

28.20.1.1. Employees or agents of a party.

28.20.1.2. Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on Appeal.

28.20.1.3. Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the Appeal.

28.20.2. The Appeal Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any individual refusing to sign such a statement may be excluded from the Hearing.



28.21. AD HOC PROVISIONS RELATING TO APPEALS

The Appeal Pathway

The following section describes the various stages of an Appeal-process. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organisation and handling of an Appeal:

1. Pre-Competition Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate details on Appeal Procedures to all relevant NFs Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Appeals should be submitted
2. Submission of a Notice of Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeal Form submitted by the appropriate person Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Appeal Form Payment of the Appeal Fee All documents need to be submitted to the WKF
3. Appeal Submission Review by the WKF	
4. Decision over the Appeal Submission by the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If rejected: WKF should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason(s) for rejection If accepted: proceed with step 5
5. Notification of all relevant parties	
6. Preparation of the Appeal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up of an Appeal Hearing Body Notification of Appeal Hearing to all relevant parties
7. Appeal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WKF to communicate the outcome of the Appeal Update Classification Master List (if applicable) Review Classification Rules (if applicable)
8. Appeal Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicated in writing

PART EIGHT: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

An Intentional Misrepresentation is a violation of these Rules and will be investigated and potentially sanctioned as provided for in the IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

29. Misrepresentation during Athlete Evaluation

- 29.1. An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment to a Classification Panel in the course of Athlete Evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading that Classification Panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

30. Misrepresentation after Allocation of Confirmed Sport Class

- 30.1. If following the allocation of a Sport Class an Athlete undertakes any form of corrective treatment (a "medical intervention"), and the Athlete (or any other Participant) knows (or should know) that the medical intervention was intended to result in improved sport performance, the Athlete must provide details of that medical intervention to the WKF at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If the Athlete's Sport Class is later changed because the Athlete's sporting performance has improved as a result of

(in whole or in part) that medical intervention, but the Athlete failed to disclose that medical intervention to WKF, the Athlete will be charged with Intentional Misrepresentation.

31. Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation

- 31.1. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

PART NINE: USE OF ATHLETE INFORMATION

32. Classification Data

- 32.1. The WKF may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 32.2. All Classification Data Processed by the WKF must be accurate, complete and kept up to date.

33. Consent and Processing

- 33.1. Subject to Article 34.3, the WKF may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates. An Athlete who does not consent in this way cannot be evaluated or allocated a Sport Class or Compensation Score.
- 33.2. If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is underage) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 33.3. The WKF may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

34. Classification Research

- 34.1. The WKF may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 34.2. The use by the WKF of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 34.3. Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to the WKF solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 34.4. The WKF may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If the WKF wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

35. Notification to Athletes

- 35.1. The WKF must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:



- 35.1.1.1. that fact that the WKF is collecting the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.1.2. the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.1.3. the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.
- 35.1.1.4. The notification to Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel of the information may be withheld if providing the information might compromise an on-going or imminent investigation into an act of misconduct associated with Classification.
- 35.1.1.5. The WKF will provide the above information in an easily comprehensible and accessible manner to National Federations, Athletes, and support personnel.

36. Classification Data Security

- 36.1. The WKF must:
 - 36.1.1.1. protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
 - 36.1.1.2. take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

37. Disclosures of Classification Data

- 37.1. The WKF must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.
- 37.2. The WKF may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

38. Retaining Classification Data

- 38.1. The WKF must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised.

39. The WKF Classification Master List

- 39.1. The WKF must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class, Sport Class Status and Compensation Score. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Events.
- 39.2. The WKF must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Federations on the WKF website.
- 39.3. The WKF is responsible for maintaining the WKF Classification Master List, with relevant details only.

GLOSSARY OF DEFINED TERMS

Term	Definition
Activity Limitation	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.
Appeal	A formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Athlete	Any person who participates in the sport of Karate at either International Level (as defined by WKF) or National Level (as defined by a National Federation) and any other additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Body.
Athlete Evaluation	The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Rules.
Athlete Support Personnel	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.
Classification	A structure for Competition to ensure that an Athlete's Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.
Classification Evaluation Period	The timeframe prior to the commencement of Events at a Competition within which Physical and Technical Assessment typically takes place.
Classification Master List	The list made available by WKF that identifies the Athletes that participated in International Classification.
Classification Panel	A group of Classifiers appointed by WKF to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Rules.
Classification Personnel	All persons involved in or associated with the process of Athlete Evaluation, including the Head of Classification, Classifiers, Chief Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers.
Classifier	A person authorized by WKF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
Competition	A series of individual Events conducted together under the jurisdiction of WKF.
Competition Season	The timeframe within which Karate Competitions are held. For WKF Karate, the Competition Season runs from January 1 of a calendar year until December 31 of the same calendar year.
Conflict of Interest	A conflict of interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
Effective Date	The date upon which these Rules come into force.



Eligible Impairment	An Eligible Impairment is an Impairment the existence of which is a pre-requisite for an Athlete to meet the Minimum Disability Criteria for the sport of Karate.
Entry Sport Class	A Sport Class allocated to an Athlete by a National Body prior to an WKF Competition to indicate the Sport Class with which the Athlete intends to compete. An Entry Sport Class is an estimate and has no binding effect upon either the Athlete or the body responsible for organising and managing the relevant Competition.
Event	A sub-set of a Competition that requires specific technical and sporting skills.
Fixed Review Date	A date prior to which an Athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) will not be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation, regardless of whether or not that Athlete competes at any Competition. Unless otherwise specified by the Classification Panel, the Fixed Review Date is the first day of the Competition Season of WKF (1 January).
Head of Classification	A Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for WKF.
Impairment	Problems in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.
Intellectual Impairment	A type of Impairment, which is defined as a limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This impairment originates before the age of 18.
International Classification	Athlete Evaluation that is conducted in full compliance with these Rules.
IPC	International Paralympic Committee.
IPC Classification Code	The IPC Classification Code 2007 and accompanying International Standards and any subsequent version or versions of the same.
IPC Classifier Code of Conduct	A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual Classifier, which is part of the IPC Classification Code International Standard of Classifier Training.
IPC Code of Ethics	The ethical standard that will be applied consistently within the Paralympic Movement, and will be applicable to all IPC sanctioned Events, Competitions and activities.
IPC Handbook	The IPC Handbook is the primary governance instrument for the IPC in its capacity as both an International Federation and the ruling body for the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. All persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of the IPC are required to abide by its provisions.
Medical Intervention	Any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other treatment, which affects the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.



Medical Review	The process by which an Athlete can apply to WKF to undergo Athlete Evaluation, in order that the Athlete's Sport Class may be reviewed to ensure that the Athlete's Sport Class remains a fair allocation.
Minimum Disability Criteria	The standards set by WKF in relation to the degree of Eligible Impairment that must be present in order that an Athlete is deemed to be eligible to compete in the sport of Karate.
National Body	A team entity of which an Athlete is a member. Such an entity may be National Federation, National Paralympic Committee or other representative team body.
Not Eligible	Consequence of not meeting the eligibility criteria.
Observation Assessment	The means by which a Classification Panel may complete Athlete Evaluation, if it considers that the only fair way in which it can complete Athlete Evaluation is to observe the Athlete performing the specific skills associated with the sport of WKF either prior to or during an Event.
Physical Assessment	The means by which a Classification Panel will determine whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment and whether that Eligible Impairment complies with the Minimum Disability Criteria.
Physical Impairment	A group of Eligible Impairments affecting an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising ataxia, athetosis, hypertonia, impaired muscle power, impaired range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference and short stature.
Protest	The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Protest Panel	A Classification Panel formed to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class, where that Sport Class is the subject of a Protest.
Recognised Competition	An umbrella term for WKF Competitions, WKF Sanctioned Competitions and WKF Approved Competitions as defined in WKF Rules and Regulations.
Sport Class	A category defined by WKF in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment.
Sport Class Status	A Category allocation to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.
Technical Assessment	The assessment of an Athlete's ability to perform the tasks and activities required to participate in the sport of Karate.
Tracking Code	A temporary designation applied to a Sport Class that indicates that a Sport Class is subject to final determination after Observation Assessment has taken place.
Visual Impairment	An Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain, which adversely affect an Athlete's vision.

APPENDIX 1 SPORT CLASSES FOR ATHLETES WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

This appendix deals with Sport Classes for Athletes with Visual Impairment **K10** and sets out the Minimum Impairment Criteria and assessment methodologies that apply for an Athlete with Visual Impairment to be eligible to compete in the sport of Karate.

- WKF currently revisits the Sport Classes for Athletes with Visual Impairment towards a sport-specific classification system based on activity limitations that result from Impairment. Until such a system is approved, the processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Visual Impairment.
- The processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Visual Impairment.
- The Sport Class and Extra Score allocated to Athletes with Visual Impairment applies to all events offered by WKF.
- All provisions of the WKF Athlete Classification Rules apply to the Assessment of Athletes with Visual Impairment, except if otherwise specified in this Appendix.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to compete in Visually Impaired Sport Class in Para Karate, the Athlete must meet both of the below criteria:

1. The Athlete must have at least one of the following eligible impairments in each eye:
 - a. Impairment of the eye structure.
 - b. Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways.
 - c. Impairment of the visual cortex of the central brain.
2. The Athlete's eligible Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to 6/18.

Grading according to ICD-10

Grade		Distance visual acuity
1	Moderate visual impairment	worse than 6/18 to 6/60
2	Severe visual impairment	worse than 6/60 to 3/60
3	Blindness	worse than 3/60 to 1/60
4	Blindness	worse than 1/60 to light perception
5	Blindness	no light perception

NOTE: Athletes will be classified according to the LESS-IMPAIRED eye. Athletes with monocular blindness or impairment will not be eligible for participation.

It is the Athlete's and WKF National Federation's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's visual impairment. This must be done by way of submitting medical diagnostic information completed by an ophthalmologist with the registration of Athlete. The Medical Diagnostic Information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostic Form (available on the WKF webpage) and attached medical documentation.

The Medical Diagnostic Form must be filled in English language (or be officially translated).

Athletes with visual impairments will not be subjected to additional testing during the Classification Session. Nevertheless, the Athletes must appear for the Classification Session with the documents mentioned above for verification of their disabilities and identification. It is recommended that blindfolds also be checked at this moment.

THE COMPENSATION SCORE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ATHLETE BASED ON THE MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION. APPENDIX 2 SPORT CLASSES FOR ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT

This appendix deals with Sport Classes for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment and sets out the Minimum Disability Criteria and assessment methodologies that apply in order for an Athlete with Intellectual Impairment to be eligible to compete in the sport of Karate.

WKF has designated a Sport Class **K21** for Athletes with Activity Limitations that result from an Intellectual Impairment. These Athletes are referred to as Athletes with Intellectual Impairment.

WKF has designated a Sport Class **K22** for Athletes with Down Syndrome. to reflect the variety of impairments that can accompany an intellectual impairment.

The processes detailed in this Appendix apply to the conduct of Athlete Evaluation with respect to the Sport Class designated by WKF/VIRTUS for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

WKF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered eligible to compete in WKF World Para Karate Championships as an athlete with an intellectual disability, athletes must fulfil the provisional eligibility criteria as defined by VIRTUS.

VIRTUS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered eligible to compete as an athlete with an intellectual disability, athletes must fulfil the full eligibility criteria as defined by VIRTUS, member of the International Paralympic Committee.

The criteria state that an athlete must demonstrate:

Sport Class	Eligibility Criteria
K21	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean, that is, a Full-Scale score of 75 or lower.2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This is defined as performance that is at least 2 standard deviations below the mean of, either one of the 3 types of adaptive behaviour (conceptual, social, or practical skills) or an overall score on a standardized measure of conceptual, social and practical skills.3. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 18 years of age.



K22	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A formal diagnosis of Trisomy 21 Down syndrome,2. A statement that the athlete is clear of symptomatic Atlantoaxial Instability (AAI) – a common orthopaedic problem seen in people with Down syndrome. <p><i><u>Note:</u> Athletes with Mosaic Down syndrome are currently eligible for K21 competition.</i></p> <p><i>The criteria for this group will be revised and expanded as the project progresses and research data becomes available.</i></p>
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SPORT CLASS AND SPORT CLASS STATUS

1. If the athlete meets the requirements for VIRTUS eligibility and is listed on VIRTUS master list for provisional eligibility the athlete will be awarded a Sport Class K21 or K22 with Review (R) Sport Class Status. This makes the athlete eligible to compete in WKF World Para Karate Championships.
2. Athletes that are listed for on VIRTUS master list for full eligibility will be awarded a Sport Class K21 or K22 with Confirmed Sport Class Status and will be eligible to compete in WKF World Para Karate Championships and VIRTUS Sanctioned or Promoted Championships.
3. If VIRTUS determines that an Athlete is Not Eligible (NE), the provisions in Part Five of these Rules shall apply.

APPENDIX 3 SPORT CLASSES FOR ATHLETES WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

Appendix One deals with Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment and sets out the Minimum Impairment Criteria and assessment methodologies that apply in order for an Athlete with Physical Impairment to be eligible to compete in the sport of Karate.

- WKF has designated Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment, which are defined in this Appendix.
- WKF currently revisits the Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment towards a sport-specific classification system on the basis of activity limitations that result from Impairment. Until such a system is approved, the processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment.
- The processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment.
- The Sport Class allocated to Athletes with Visual Impairment applies to all events offered by WKF and IPC.
- All provisions of the WKF Athlete Classification Rules apply to the Assessment of Athletes with Physical Impairment, except if otherwise specified in this Appendix.
- The following Sport Classes has been designated by the WKF for Athlete's with a Physical Impairment:

K30 – Athletes with Physical or Motor Disabilities

Class K30 will compete using Wheelchairs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1.1. The following physical impairment types in the below Table 1 are eligible for Para Karate under the following conditions:

- An athlete must be affected by at least one of the impairments listed in the first column of the table
- The impairment must result directly from a health condition (e.g. trauma, disease, dysgenesis).

Table 1 Eligible criteria for Athletes with Physical Impairment

Impairment Type	Examples of health conditions likely to cause such impairments	Impairments as described in the ICF	Relevant ICF Impairment Codes
Hypertonia	Cerebral palsy, stroke, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis	High muscle tone <i>Inclusions:</i> Hypertonia / High muscle tone <i>Exclusions:</i> Low muscle tone	b735

Ataxia	Ataxia resulting from cerebral palsy, brain injury, Friedreich's ataxia, multiple sclerosis, spinocerebellar ataxia	Control of voluntary movement <i>Inclusions:</i> Ataxia only <i>Exclusions:</i> Problems of control of voluntary movement that do not fit description of Ataxia	b760
Athetosis	Cerebral Palsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury	Involuntary muscle contractions <i>Inclusions:</i> Athetosis, chorea <i>Exclusions:</i> Sleep related movement disorders	b7650
Limb Deficiency (LD)	Amputation resulting from trauma or congenital limb deficiency (dysmelia).	Total or partial absence of the bones or joints of the pelvic region or lower extremities	s740, s750 Note: These codes would have the extension .81 or 0.82 to indicate total or partial absence of the structure respectively.
Impaired Passive Range of Movement (PROM)	Arthrogryposis, ankylosis, post burns joint contractures	Impaired joint mobility <i>Exclusions:</i> Hyper mobility of joints	b7100-b7102
Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, Erb's palsy, Guillain Barre syndrome	Muscle power	b730
Leg Length Difference	Congenital or traumatic causes of bone shortening in one leg	Aberrant dimensions of bones of right lower limb OR left lower limb but not both. <i>Inclusions:</i> shortening of bones of one lower limb <i>Exclusions:</i> shortening of bones of both lower limbs; any increase in dimensions	s7500, s75010, s75020 Note: for coding purposes aberrant dimensions of bones of right lower limb is indicated by addition of the qualifying code .841 and in the left lower limb, .842

2. Minimum Disability Criteria

c. Neurological impairments must meet MDC as per below.

- Hemiplegic Spasticity Grade 1 to2
- Monoplegic Grade 1 to 2 spasticity in a major joint, either the ankle or the elbow
- Athetosis, Ataxia or Mixed Cerebral Palsy This Athlete may appear to have near normal function when running but the Athlete must demonstrate a limitation in function to Classifiers based on evidence of



spasticity (increased tone), ataxia, athetosis or dystonic movements while performing on the field of play or in training. The Athlete may walk with a slight limp but runs more fluidly.

- g. Limb Deficiency (LD): This group includes athletes with limb deficiency and impaired muscle strength, or loss of passive range of motion (PROM). The limb deficiency group includes individuals with traumatic amputations or dysmelia. The impaired muscle strength group includes loss of strength secondary to peripheral nervous system (PNS) damage or a brachial plexus lesion. The impaired strength group can also include ambulatory neurological impairments such as monoplegia, or mild hemiplegia. The loss of PROM can be due to joint contractures, joint abnormalities, or soft tissue restrictions. Finally, this group could also include loss of the large toe, or of all toes in one foot.
- h. Amputation/Dysmelia:
- Complete unilateral amputation of half the length of the foot (i.e., measured on the unamputated foot from the tip of the large toe to the posterior aspect of the calcaneus) or equivalent congenital limb deficiency
 - Unilateral dysmelia in which the length of the affected foot is less than or equal to 50% of the length of the unaffected foot.
- i. Impaired Passive Range of Movement (PROM), athlete must meet one of the MDC as per below:
- Must lose three muscle grades – e.g., Daniels and Worthingham's grade 2 cannot complete one heel rise to 25 degrees. In lying may complete full range of motion with resistance. (See Daniels and Worthingham's Muscle Testing, 8th edition pp 229, 231)
 - Brachial plexus – loss of shoulder abduction loss of three (3) grade points of muscle strength and for shoulder flexion
 - Loss of two (2) grade points of muscle strength in elbow flexion and extension
Meets one criterion for PROM restriction in either the lower extremity or upper extremity.

Note: Others will be developed.



APPENDIX 4 NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

The following types of impairment are not eligible for participation in WKF Para Karate Competitions:

- Hearing impairment (deafness)
- Pain, including chronic pain
- Delayed or reduced motor reflexes
- Motor conditions restricted to the face or head
- Reduced muscle endurance
- Transient or other movement responses, such as tics or stereotypy
- Joint instability or laxity (example: unstable or recurrent dislocation of shoulder or knee joints)
- Cardiovascular or respiratory conditions
- Conditions related to metabolism and/or the endocrine system, including nutritional deficiencies
- Blood/haematological system disorders
- Any physical, intellectual or visual condition that is non-permanent
- **Any impairment with an underlying health condition that is considered unsafe for sport or that may be a risk to the Athlete's health during competition**



APPENDIX 5 FEES

The following fees will apply for these Rules.

Type of Fee	Fee	Refund
Medical Review Request	500 CHF	No refund
Protest Fee	500 CHF	Refunded in case of changed Sport Class



APPENDIX 6 INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

The WKF subscribes to the IPC Classification Code, Models of Best practices for Intentional Misrepresentation Rules – an excerpt of which is found in this appendix. Where it says IPC please read WKF Para Karate.

Chapter 1.3 - IPC Classification Code: models of best practice,
Intentional Misrepresentation Rules

June 2013

ARTICLE 1: SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

These International Paralympic Committee (“IPC”) Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (the “IM Rules”) implement Articles 10,11,12,13 and 14 of the IPC Classification Code 2007 (“the Code”) across all Sports for which the IPC acts as International Federation (individually referred to as an “IPC Sport” and collectively as “IPC Sports”) and for IPC Recognised Competitions.

The Code provides that deceptive conduct that compromises the outcome of Athlete Evaluation should be subject to a disciplinary sanction. These IM Rules provide the basis upon which such conduct can be made the subject of a disciplinary process. The IM Rules are to be read in conjunction with, and as being supplemental to, the Classification Regulations of all IPC Sports.

1.2 APPLICATION

The IM Rules shall apply to:

- a. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are subject to the jurisdiction of the IPC and in particular subject to the Classification Regulations of an IPC Sport; and/or
- b. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel participating in Events, Recognised Competitions and other activities organised, convened or sanctioned by the IPC. (**all together referred to as “Participants”**).

1.3 CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the personal responsibility of every Participant to be acquainted and comply with all of the requirements of the IM Rules, including being aware of what constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation.

1.4 COMMENCEMENT AND AMENDMENT

1.4.1 The IM Rules shall come into full force and effect on the Effective Date. They shall not apply retrospectively to matters arising prior to the Effective Date.

1.4.2 Amendments to the IM Rules shall be approved and shall come into effect in the manner prescribed by the IPC.

ARTICLE 2: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

2.1 MISREPRESENTATION DURING ATHLETE EVALUATION

2.1.1 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment to a Classification Panel in the course of Athlete Evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading that Classification Panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

2.2 MISREPRESENTATION AFTER ALLOCATION OF CONFIRMED SPORT CLASS

If following the allocation of a Sport Class an Athlete undertakes any form of corrective treatment (a “medical intervention”), and the Athlete (or any other Participant) knows (or should know) that the medical intervention was intended to result in improved sport performance, the Athlete must provide details of that medical intervention to the IPC at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If the Athlete’s Sport Class is later changed because the Athlete’s sporting performance has improved as a result of (in whole or in part) that medical intervention, but the Athlete failed to disclose that medical intervention to IPC, the Athlete will be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.



2.3 ASSISTING INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

Any Participant who knowingly assists, covers up or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

Each of the acts or omissions set out in Articles 2.1 to 2.3 shall constitute Intentional Misrepresentation. These are referred to collectively as “Intentional Misrepresentation” in the Rules.

ARTICLE 3: DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

3.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

3.1 The investigation of the acts referred to in Article 2 of the Rules (referred to in this Article 3 as “Intentional Misrepresentation”) and any resultant disciplinary process shall be undertaken by the IPC.

3.2 INITIAL INVESTIGATION

3.2.1 All matters involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be investigated by the IPC. This investigation will be conducted in order to determine whether it appears that a Participant may have committed Intentional Misrepresentation and may include giving the Participant an opportunity to respond to the allegations raised.

3.2.2 If following the conclusion of any such investigation the IPC concludes that the Participant does not appear to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation the IPC shall advise the Participant of that fact. The IPC shall take no further action against the Participant save that the IPC may issue a warning or may provide advice to the Participant as to their future conduct if it believes that such is warranted.

3.2.3 If following the conclusion of any investigation the IPC concludes that the Participant does appear to be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation, the IPC shall send the Participant a Notice of Charge in accordance with Article 4.3.

3.3 NOTICE OF CHARGE

3.3.1 If the IPC believes that a Participant has committed Intentional Misrepresentation then the IPC shall as soon as practicable notify the Participant in writing of:

- a. The Intentional Misrepresentation that the Participant is charged with committing;
- b. A summary of the facts and evidence relied upon by the IPC in support of the charge;
- c. The Sanction that will be applied if it is established that the Participant has committed Intentional Misrepresentation; and
- d. Details of the persons at IPC responsible for dealing with the matter, and full contact details of those persons.

This information must be sent to the Participant as part of a “Charge Notice”.

3.3.2 The Charge Notice must advise the Participant that he may respond by either:

- a. Admitting the charge and accepting the Sanction set out by IPC in the Charge Notice; or
- b. Denying the charge and having the charge and any Sanction set at a hearing.

3.3.3 If the Participant wishes to exercise his right to a hearing, he must notify the IPC that he wishes to have such a hearing. This notification must be sent to the IPC within 14 days of the Participant’s receipt of the Charge Notice. The notification must state how the Participant responds to the charge in the Notice and must explain the basis for such response.

3.3.4 If the Participant fails to respond to the Charge, fails to notify the IPC that he wishes to have a hearing, or notifies the IPC that he wishes to have a hearing but fails to attend the hearing, a hearing will take place in his absence whereby the issue of whether or not the Participant is guilty of committing Intentional Misrepresentation will be resolved.

3.4 LIMITATION

No charge may be brought under these IPC IM Rules in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation 3 where ten (10) years or more have passed since the date that the Intentional Misrepresentation is alleged to have occurred.

ARTICLE 4: HEARINGS

4.1 JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL FOR CLASSIFICATION (“THE BAC”)

The BAC is appointed by the IPC to rule on allegations that Intentional Misrepresentation has been committed. The BAC shall rule on such allegations as provided for in Appendix A to the IM Rules.

4.2 DECISIONS

4.2.1 At the hearing, the IPC must prove that the Participant has committed the Intentional Misrepresentation specified in the Charge Notice. This must be proved to the comfortable satisfaction of the BAC, which is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

4.2.2 Following the completion of the hearing, the BAC will make a decision as to whether the Participant has committed the acts specified in the Charge Notice. If it decides that the Participant has committed the Intentional Misrepresentation specified in the Charge Notice, it shall make a recommendation to the IPC Governing Board as regards the Sanction that should be applied to the Participant. The IPC Governing Board shall be responsible for notifying the Athlete of any Sanction.

4.3 PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS

4.3.1 The decision shall be disclosed publicly by the IPC. The decision shall not be disclosed (a) until the deadline for appeal has passed and no appeal has been filed; or (b) if an appeal is filed, unless and until the decision that Intentional Misrepresentation was committed is affirmed on appeal.

4.3.2 If the IPC finds that Intentional Misrepresentation has not been committed, the decision shall not be disclosed publicly unless the Participant charged consents to such disclosure or requests that the finding be disclosed.

ARTICLE 5: SANCTIONS

5.1 DISQUALIFICATION OF EVENT RESULTS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

5.1.1 If an Athlete is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation under Articles 2.1 or 2.3 during or in connection with a Competition, the Athlete shall be Disqualified from that Competition, with the removal of any individual results obtained by the Athlete in that Competition, and all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of all medals, titles, points and prizes. In addition, any results obtained by the Athlete in Competitions taking place after the date upon which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred may be Disqualified, with all of the resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, titles, points and prizes.

5.1.2 If an Athlete is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation under Article 2.2, any results obtained by the Athlete in Competitions taking place after the date upon which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred shall be Disqualified, with all of the resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, titles, points and prizes.

5.2 REMOVAL OF SPORT CLASS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF AN ACT OF INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION COMMITTED DURING OR IN CONNECTION WITH A COMPETITION

If an Athlete is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation under Articles 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3 at any time, the Athlete shall forfeit his or her Sport Class, and shall be designated "IM" in the Classification Master List for the relevant Sport for the same time period as that specified pursuant to Article 6.3 below. In accordance with Article 11.3 of the IPC Classification Code this designation shall be recognized and respected by all IPC Sports automatically upon notification of the same, without the need for further action by those Sports.

5.3 INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION: INELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETE EVALUATION

If an Athlete is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation under Articles 2.1, 2.2 or 2.3, the sanction shall be a period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation of twenty-four months.

5.4 SANCTIONS TO BE APPLIED TO ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL

If an Athlete Support Personnel is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation under Article 2.3 the appropriate sanction shall be a period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation of twenty-four months.

5.5 SECOND OFFENCES

If a Participant is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation is set out in Articles 5.3 and 5.4. If that Participant commits a second Act of Intentional Misrepresentation, the period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation shall be a lifetime period of Ineligibility.

5.6 COMMENCEMENT OF INELIGIBILITY PERIOD

The period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation shall start on the date of the relevant decision or such other date as specified.



5.7 STATUS DURING INELIGIBILITY

5.7.1 A Participant who has been declared Ineligible for Athlete Evaluation may not take part in Athlete Evaluation at any Competition that is recognised by the IPC Sport

5.7.2 If a Participant who is Ineligible for Athlete Evaluation violates the prohibition against taking part in Athlete Evaluation, and is designated a Sport Class as a result, that Sport Class shall be forfeited, and the Athlete shall be Disqualified, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of all medals, titles, points and prizes, and the period of Ineligibility for Athlete Evaluation shall start over again as of the date of the violation.

ARTICLE 6: APPEALS

6.1 APPEAL RIGHTS

Decisions made under the IM Rules may be challenged only by appeal as set out in this Article 6. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the body to which the appeal is made orders otherwise.

6.2 APPEALABLE DECISIONS

6.2.1 A decision that Intentional Misrepresentation was (or was not) committed may be appealed by any of the following parties exclusively as provided in this Article 6:

- a. The Participant who is the subject of the decision being appealed;
- b. The IPC;
- c. The National Paralympic Committee ("NPC") of the Participant's country of nationality;
- d. The Participant's International Federation (if this is not the IPC).

If no appeal is made, the decision shall be final and binding on all of the above Persons.

6.2.2 An appeal pursuant to Article 6.2.1 shall be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS"). CAS decisions are final and binding.

6.3 APPEAL PROCEDURE

6.3.1 The time to file an appeal to CAS shall be twenty-one (21) days from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing party;

6.3.2 CAS decisions shall be disclosed according to the CAS Arbitration Rules.

ARTICLE 7: CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 REPORTING OF PENDING CASES

The identity of a Participant charged with committing Intentional Misrepresentation shall not be publicly disclosed during the period when the case is pending.

ARTICLE 8: MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

The laws of Germany shall govern the IM Rules and all matters and proceedings arising in connection with the IM Rules.

8.2 INTERPRETATION

Save where otherwise indicated, defined terms used in these IM Rules (i.e., those words or phrases starting with capitals) shall have the meaning given to them in the Glossary.

APPENDIX A – RULES OF PROCEDURE INTRODUCTION AND JURISDICTION

1. The IPC is responsible for establishing the Board of Appeal on Classification ("the BAC") in accordance with the IPC BAC By-laws.
2. Matters involving an allegation made by the IPC that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation shall be submitted for determination by the BAC.

PRE-HEARING PROCEDURES

3. The jurisdiction of the BAC shall be triggered if the IPC submits a written request (a "Request for Adjudication") to the Chairperson of the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee (or his or his designate) that the BAC determine one or more charges that the IPC has brought against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel ("the Respondent").



- 3.1 A Request for Adjudication shall:
 - 3.1.1 Provide the name, nation and Sport of the Respondent;
 - 3.1.2 Specify the grounds for the Charge;
 - 3.1.3 Identify all documents, fact and expert witnesses, and other evidence to be offered in support of the Charge.
- 3.2 All Requests for Adjudication shall be submitted in writing by fax, e-mail or surface mail to such person as may be nominated from time to time by the IPC.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND FORMATION OF THE HEARING BODY

4. Following receipt of the Request for Adjudication, the Chairperson shall conduct a review of the Request for Adjudication to determine whether the content, timing and delivery of the Request for Adjudication complies with Rule 3 above.

- 4.1 If the Request for Adjudication does not comply with Rule 3, the Chairperson shall issue a written decision dismissing the Request for Adjudication, without prejudice to its being reinstated at a later date.
 - 4.1.1 If the Request for Adjudication complies with Rule 3 the Chairperson shall appoint a Hearing Body.
 - 4.1.2 This process shall be completed within 28 calendar days of the Request for Adjudication being received by the Chairperson.

THE HEARING BODY

5. The Hearing Body will comprise:

- 5.1 Hearing Body Chairperson; and
- 5.2 Two (2) persons appointed by the Hearing Body Chairperson, with appropriate skills and experience.

6. Appointment of members of the Hearing Body shall be within the sole discretion of the Hearing Body Chairperson save that no member shall be appointed if the circumstances of the Hearing are such that a member thereby has a conflict of interest.

- 6.1 In its sole discretion, the Hearing Body may designate counsel to assist it in the Hearing.
- 6.2 All members of the Hearing Body shall comply with the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 6.3 The IPC Legal and Ethics Committee Assistant shall act as Secretary to the Hearing Body.
- 6.4 The IPC Legal and Ethics Committee Assistant shall advise the Applicant and Respondent as soon as the Hearing Body is appointed.

CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

7. As soon as practicable after the formation of the Hearing Body, the Hearing Body Chairperson shall issue directions to the IPC and the Respondent in relation to the procedure and timetable to be followed in the proceedings. This shall establish a schedule for the exchange of written submissions and evidence in advance of the hearing. The Hearing Body Chairperson may make such procedural rulings on his own.

- 7.1 A party intending to rely upon the evidence of a witness or expert shall serve a statement or report setting out the proposed evidence of such witness or expert at a date in advance of the hearing that is specified by the Hearing Body Chairperson.
- 7.2 The Hearing Body shall have the power to allow, refuse or limit the evidence or appearance at the hearing of any witness or expert.

HEARING

8. The Hearing Body Chairperson shall decide on the format of the Hearing (in person, or by (partial) telephone conference or by (partial) videoconference), and the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee Assistant shall liaise with the IPC and Respondent to set a date for the hearing of the Hearing, which should take place at the earliest convenience.

- 8.1 Both parties may, at their own expense, to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Hearing Body. Both parties may offer documentary evidence, submit a hearing memorandum or brief and (subject to the Hearing Body's discretion) call witnesses.



8.2 The Hearing Body shall consider all evidence and witness testimony, rule on its credibility and relevance, and consider it on that basis.

8.3 In exceptional circumstances, the Hearing Body may adjourn the Hearing and issue a request that the IPC and/or Respondent provide such additional evidence that the Hearing Body believes, in its sole discretion, is required in order to enable the Hearing Body to reach a decision regarding the Hearing.

HEARING CONSEQUENCES

9. The Hearing Body shall issue a written decision resolving any Hearing within 28 days after the Hearing. The decision shall be provided to the IPC and Respondent, to the IPC and, if applicable, to the Competition Organizing Committee (in the case of Hearings conducted in connection with a Competition). The Hearing Body shall issue a ruling stating the reasons for its decision, including the evidence relied on, and the actions that are required as a result.]

9.1 The IPC shall be responsible for publishing the decision unless any party has made a reasoned request to the Hearing Body that any decision be kept confidential and the Hearing Body has agreed to this.

CONFIDENTIALITY

10. Proceedings under these Rules are confidential and not open to the public.

10.1 The Hearing Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any individual refusing to sign such a statement shall be excluded from the Hearing.

AD HOC RULES FOR THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

11. Accelerated procedures shall apply for Requests for Adjudication submitted during the Paralympic Games period, which is defined as the period commencing with the opening of the Paralympic Village and ending on mid-night of the day of the Closing Ceremony.

11.1 The procedures set out above shall apply as varied below.

11.1.1 The initial assessment and formation of the Hearing Body as outlined above shall normally be completed within 24 hours following the receipt of the Request for Adjudication.

11.1.2 The Hearing shall normally be held within 48 hours following the receipt of the Request for Adjudication. The Hearing Body Chairperson shall decide on the time and location of the Hearing. However, if considered appropriate the Hearing Body Chairperson may adjourn the matter to be dealt with after the Games. In such case the Hearing Body Chairperson shall set out a timetable for the further steps to be taken by the IPC and Respondent and shall set a date for the Hearing.

11.1.3 The decision of the Hearing Body shall be communicated verbally to the IPC and Respondent immediately following the Hearing Body having reached a final decision. A written decision will be issued as soon as practically possible afterwards. Communications to these parties will be as are determined most appropriate by the Hearing Body Chairperson.