

The Functional Classification System is based on the maximised ability of elite competitive swimmers with a physical disability.

For a swimmer to compete they must be classified.

CONSENT FORM

Before commencing the process all swimmers are required to sign a consent form.

PROCESS

The Swimming classification process involves three parts:

Bench Test – that is usually performed by a doctor or a physiotherapist familiar with the testing protocol

Water Test – a technical test usually performed by a technical specific person

Observation - during competition

A swimmer can only be granted an international classification if classified by two Authorised IPC Swimming Classifiers (one medical and one technical).

LEVELS OF CLASSIFICATION

There are different levels of classification in the International system for Classification

Currently **trainee** classifiers, **regional** classifiers (either technical or medical) and **international** classifiers (when working alone) in each country who are able to provide the swimmer with a temporary recognized classification (see N Status below). The classification sheet must be forwarded to the Chair of IPC Swimming and the classification information recorded into the IPC Swimming classification database for the swimmers times to be acknowledged and entered into the rankings.

N STATUS

A trainee classifier, regional classifier or one authorised Classifier can only provide classifications for the swimmers from their own nation (= "N"). Usually a swimmer is initially classified at national or regional level. This classification makes it possible for the swimmer to compete at National level or at some international competitions. The status of the swimmer will be recorded as N status.

P STATUS

For a classification to gain a permanent international status (= "P"), the swimmer must be classified by two internationally authorised classifiers [one medical and one technical].

R STATUS

Occasionally a swimmer classified by two internationally authorized classifiers will be given a "R" or review status. This will normally be due to the doubt by the classifier of the swimmers classification. These swimmers will be required to attend the classification process at a major IPC competition, i.e. Paralympic Games, IPC World Championships or IPC Regional Championships, or approved IPC Swimming national competitions.

RECLASSIFICATION

Once a swimmer has been internationally classified, the swimmer can only be reclassified if there has been a change in the swimmers disability or a change in the classification system.

For a swimmer who has an international classification the NPC may submit a protest to IPC Swimming, prior to a major competition ie Paralympic Games, IPC World Championships or IPC Regional Championships, if they are dissatisfied with the swimmers classification. The protest is required to be accompanied with the protest fee. For a protest the IPC Swimming rules and regulations shall be observed. A swimmer who has attended a protest then is allocated a PP status.

No change can be made to an international classification at a national competition when there are less than four internationally authorised [two medical and two technical] classifiers present and three of the four classifiers having not previously classified the swimmer within the past 18 months.

The intention of this brochure is to inform swimmers of the current international process of functional swimming classification.



The controlling body for functional swimming classification is IPC Swimming. Classification that takes place outside of IPC Swimming regulations is not recognized.

Note: It is recommended that the **IPC Swimming Swim Rules, IPC Swimming Classification Manual and IPC Swimming Handbook** should be consulted and read carefully.

All of this information can be readily accessed through the IPC Swimming web site www.ipcswimming.org

International Process For Functional Swimming Classification



Compiled by :

Anne Green
(Chairman IPC Swimming)

Conrado R Jaubert
(IPC Swimming Classification Officer)

February 2005