

Rowing Australia Classification Policy For Adaptive Rowers

Throughout this document the acronym RA will be used to represent Rowing Australia

Rowing Australia has adopted the FISA Classification Guidelines and Procedures. However, this document has been amended to outline and cater for the differences between a National Classification Program and an International Classification Program.

Rowing Australia's objective for adaptive rowing is to provide opportunities for people with a disability to compete at a local, state and national level. RA is responsible for the classification of athletes who wish to compete at a national level and has established classification criteria that define the minimum disability of an athlete permitted to compete in each of the designated boat classes.

RA is responsible for maintaining an appropriate number of qualified adaptive rowing national classifiers while also ensuring that the RA Classification Policy is implemented by all adaptive rowing classifiers.

This policy will be revised in accordance with FISA's steps to bring the classification procedure into line with the International Standards set out by the International Paralympic Committee.

The *FISA Classification Guidelines* should be referred to when dealing with International Classifications. Furthermore, applicants wishing to gain a National Classification are required to complete both the RA Classification Forms and FISA Classification Forms outlined in this policy.

RA CLASSIFIERS

A Rowing Australia Classifier is one who has been approved as such by Rowing Australia. There are two types of RA Classifier:

1. RA Classifier (Medical): a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist
2. RA Classifier (Technical): a person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

An RA National Classification Panel consists of 2 RA National Classifiers, one of whom is a Medical Classifier, and one of whom is a Technical Classifier.

CLASSIFICATION STATUS

An athlete's national classification status will be awarded by a National Classification Panel.

National New (NN) Status

A sport class status of "NN" shall be allocated to an athlete who has not been classified by a RA National Classification Panel but who has been classified by two RA Trainee Classifiers (one medical and one technical). A rower with a classification status of "NN" may compete at local or state level events.

National Review (NR) Status

An RA National Classification Panel may allocate a classification with an “NR” status to a rower where the Classifiers consider the rower’s classification status may change (due to a change in disability or prosthetic use). A rower with an “NR” status will be required to undergo a further classification process prior to competing at the next RA National Event. If an athlete does not compete at a national event, the “NR” status will expire after 12 months, at which time the athlete will no longer be classified. The time frame for review is 12 months.

If an athlete is awarded an NR status, that athlete will be required to formally advise the classifiers at the time of entry into a national event whether or not there has been a change since classification in either disability level, functionality, and/or prosthesis use that could affect their status. For those athletes with an NR status because their disability may improve, they will be re-classified prior to each national event to ensure proper classification status.

National Confirmed (NC) Status

An NC classification status can only be allocated by an RA National Classification Panel. An athlete with an NC classification status may compete in all national events permitted by their classification. An athlete that has been allocated an NC status will also be awarded an N (New International) status from FISA. This will allow the athlete to compete at non-FISA events and is the first step in receiving an International Classification. Please refer to the FISA Classification Guidelines for further information on International Classifications.

RECLASSIFICATION

Once a rower has been classified and has received a National Confirmed status, the rower may only be reclassified if there has been a change in the rower’s disability, a change of prosthesis, a change in the RA classification system, or a Protest lodged in accordance with the Rules that results in a reclassification.

INTERIM CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

As an interim measure for 2007 and exception to the standard RA classification process, pending the qualification of a sufficient number of RA National Classifiers, classification may be undertaken by a team comprised of an RA National Classifier and an APC National Classifier from another sport. If this interim measure is to be used, specific prior approval in each case must be obtained from RA.

Any classification allocated under this interim measure shall be given an NN Status. The appropriate application process for rowers seeking RA National Classification must be followed. All athletes undergoing the Interim Classification process must undergo Classification at the national event by an RA National Classification Panel.

2007 Interim Classification Process

RA has given specific prior approval for the following classification team:

1. An RA National Classifier (Technical)
2. An APC National Classifier from another sport (Medical)

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ROWERS SEEKING RA NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Before commencing the classification process, all rowers are required to complete and sign both an RA and a *FISA Consent for Adaptive Rowing Classification Form*, a *Classification Application Form*, and a *Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures Form*. Documentation from a medical doctor is required as to the athlete’s disability, the date of the disability, and whether or not the disability is progressive.

This process involves both RA and FISA Documentation to allow for an athlete who is allocated an NC status to also receive an N International Classification status from FISA. The RA Classification Forms are in the RA Classification Policy, with the FISA Classification Forms found in the FISA Classification Guidelines.

Athletes with a visual impairment or an intellectual disability must include, with their application, documentation to demonstrate that they meet the appropriate classification requirements as prescribed below in the section entitled “Eligibility and Classification” items 1 and 2.

Athletes with a physical disability must be classified by RA National Classifiers to confirm that they meet the eligibility requirements prescribed below.

PROCESS FOR CLASSIFYING ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

An RA National Classification Panel conducts the standard FISA classification process.

This process involves three parts:

1. Bench Test – directed by an RA National Classifier (Medical) with an RA National Classifier (Technical) in attendance.
2. Ergometer Test – directed by a RA National Classifier (Technical) with an RA National Classifier (Medical) in attendance.
3. On Water Observation – directed by an RA National Classification panel during training and/or competition.

Classifiers will assess rowers with a physical disability according to the process described in the *FISA Adaptive Rowing Classification Manual*.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION

A. LTA (Legs, Trunk and arms)

The LTA class is for rowers with a disability who have the use of their legs, trunk and arms and who can utilize the sliding seat. LTA rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following three disability groups:

(1) Intellectual disability

A rower must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with Integration Difficulties Inc. (AUSRAPID) and have completed the athlete eligibility application using the May 2004 Athlete Application for Registration Package and subsequently issued with an AUSRAPID Registration Card. (The AUSRAPID Registration Package can be found on the AUSRAPID Website www.ausrapid.org.au/ContentPages/home.htm) Athletes classified under criteria prior to May 2004 must be re-registered with AUSRAPID using the May 2004 Athlete Application for Registration Package.

(2) Visual Impairment

A rower must have been classified by an ophthalmologist or the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) in one of the B3, B2 or B1 classes. For a description of these classes please refer to www.ibsa.es The *FISA Adaptive Rowing Vision Qualification Form* should be completed by an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist, and submitted along with the *Classification Forms* and supporting documentation to RA prior to classification.

(3) Physical Disability

The minimum physical disability is the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the *Functional Classification test* (outlined in the FISA Classification Guidelines), a full loss of three fingers on one hand, or at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot.

B. TA (Trunk and Arms)

The TA class is for rowers who have trunk movement and who are unable to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function of the lower limbs.

C. A (Arms Only)

The A class is for rowers who have no or minimal trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only). An A class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders.

Note: Athletes may move up in class for competition without affecting their sport class status, but may not move down. For example, an athlete classified as TA may row as LTA, but not as A.

CONSENT FOR RA ADAPTIVE ROWER CLASSIFICATION

Explanation:

For a rower to be eligible to compete in RA events, the rower must be classified under the RA Classification Policy.

Failure to cooperate with the Classifiers or failure to complete the classification procedure will lead to ineligibility to compete in the RA event.

The Classification process will be conducted with all due care to limit any discomfort to individual athletes. However, failure to complete the classification process, regardless of discomfort, will result in the rower not being classified and therefore not being eligible to compete in RA event. The rower may withdraw their consent at any time but the process will then not be undertaken and the rower will not be classified.

By signing this consent form the rower agrees to waive his/her rights to make any claim against the Classifiers, RA or anyone who might then claim against the Classifiers or RA, for indemnification for any damages or claims of personal injury or any other claim arising from or in any way related to the classification procedure of the rower. The rower agrees to fully indemnify RA and the Classifiers should any claim be made against them in any way related to the classification of the rower.

The following is an agreement by the rower, and the rower's parent/legal guardian where appropriate; consenting that the rower agrees to fully participate in the RA identified eligibility criteria and classification procedure.

By signing below the rower agrees to complete the test honestly to the best of his/her ability.

I, _____ of (Federation) _____

consent to be classified under the RA identified eligibility criteria and classification procedure for RA events.

I _____ Parent/legal guardian of (name of rower) _____

_____ consent to the above on behalf of _____

Signature of Rower: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Guardian: _____ Date: _____

(Note: Confirmation of guardianship status may be required).

Signature of Witness: _____ Date: _____

Print witness name and address: _____

DECLARATION OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE EMERGENCY MEASURES

Name: _____ National Federation: _____

I, _____, wish to compete in FISA / RA adaptive rowing events.
[PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME]

I understand that FISA / RA requires me to state any known medical conditions that may compromise my safety on the water. I understand that I must state the current management for my condition[s].

(Please circle any applicable conditions, otherwise print n/a if there are no associated medical conditions)

PERTINENT MEDICAL HISTORY:

Diabetes Heart Disease Cancer Stroke Recent Fracture Asthma Hypertension (high blood pressure) Autonomic Disreflexia Dehydration Seizures Other _____

Possible Medical Complications: _____

Steps that must be taken should this arise: _____

Allergies: _____

All medication is as follows: _____

I understand that if I fail to state any known medical conditions and if this condition results in having to perform a rescue, I will automatically be deemed ineligible for the present competition. I also understand that if a condition becomes evident for the first time during competition and is diagnosed at the time, e.g. dehydration, I will still be eligible to compete as long as I observe the recommended management for the condition.

SIGNATURE OF ROWER: _____

SIGNATURE of PARENT/GUARDIAN/WARD [UNDER AGE 18]: _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

ADAPTIVE ROWING CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Family Name: _____ Given Name: _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Address: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Federation: _____

Please attach the following documentation as appropriate to the application:

1. International – INAS-FID documentation (including a copy of IQ test score and athletes card).
National - AUSRAPID documentation (including a copy of IQ test score and athletes card).
2. International - IBSA documentation (including a report signed by a medical ophthalmologist or optometrist).
National – IBSA Documentation or FISA Adaptive Rowing Vision Qualification Form.
3. International / National - For physically disabled athletes, letter from a medical physician with the rower's diagnosis, date of injury, and any other pertinent information.

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For Classifier's Use Only

Diagnosis+ Associated Diagnosis+ other Comments:

Visual Impairment: _____ IBSA number: _____

Intellectual Disability: _____ INAS-FID / AUSRAPID number: _____

Physical Disability:

Amputee: _____ since: _____

Spinal Level Impaired: _____ Complete / Incomplete since: _____

Others: _____

Documentation of Disability Attached

Progressive: Yes / No

Seizures: Yes / No

Asthma: Yes / No

Ability to Walk: Yes / No

Crutches/Aids: Yes / No Wheelchair: Yes / No

Testing Place & Date: _____ Recommended Class: LTA TA A

Classifier/s Comment: _____

Final International Classification: **New**

Review

Confirmed

Final National Classification: **National New**

National Review

National Confirmed

If R (Review) Status, provide reasons: _____

Signature, FISA / RA Classifier (Medical)

Signature, FISA / RA Classifier (Technical)

Signature, Rower

Print Name (Federation)

Print Name (Federation)

Print Name (Federation)

Date and Time Athlete informed of Classification: _____

RA CLASSIFICATION APPEAL FORM

To be completed by a rower wishing to appeal against his/her own classification

Name of Rower:

Family Name: _____ **Given Name:** _____

Federation: _____

Current Classification and Sport Class Status: please put "√" on the eligible class

LTA _____ **TA** _____ **A** _____

Current classification: **New** **Review** **Confirmed**

Signature of person submitting form: _____

Full name of person submitting the form (if different from the rower to whom this protest applies) and relationship to the rower

Cost of Appeal: \$100.00

Date and Time of Appeal:

Details of Appeal: (Including the grounds of appeal, as outlined in the RA Adaptive Rowing Classification Appeal Policy, clause 3.2)

Official use only

Date and Time received: _____

Protest Fee Paid (must be attached): _____

Signature of RA Senior Classifier: _____

Printed name of RA Senior Classifier: _____

