



Canadian Blind Sports
Sports Aveugles Canada

Classification Procedures – What to Expect

What is Classification?

Classification determines who is eligible to compete in a Paralympic sport and it groups the eligible athletes in sport classes according to their activity limitation in a certain sport. Classification provides a structure for competition. A system has to be put in place to minimize the impact of impairments on sport performance and to ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This system is called classification.

Objective of classification

The Classifier wants to verify impairment and in some cases activity limitation through classification to place the athlete in the appropriate vision category. The Classifier is not trying to disqualify the athlete but simply ensure that all athletes are properly classified and are treated equitably.

Before entering the process

You will be required to sign a consent / waiver form related to the use and transfer of the confidential classification (medical) information for purposes of the classification process, as well as a consent / waiver related to the process. You may also be asked during the consent process to participate in research related to

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classification. This research is conducted to determine possible improvements in the classification system and process. Any consent for participation in research should inform you of what will be collected and how, as well as assure you that the information collected for research purposes will not impact your current classification under the existing classification system.

Before scheduling a classification appointment

The first step in determining if you would be eligible to enter the classification system is that you submit your “Medical Diagnostics form” which has been completed by your own personal eye care professional. The Medical Diagnostics form is available from your National Sport Organization or from Canadian Blind Sports. Make sure that the form you have is a Vision Medical Diagnostics Form. If you do not have a current eye care professional please consult with Canadian Blind Sports regarding your specific circumstances and eye condition.

The Medical Diagnostics form will be reviewed by a classifier (this is known as a “paper” review) and it will be determined if additional information is required, and if your level of vision is such that you may enter the sport classification process.

You will be notified through your National Sport Organization what the outcome of this process is.



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The Classification Appointment

First, you will need to bring some kind of identification to the appointment. It will be confirmed that you have read and signed the waiver and that it has been properly witnessed and if you are a minor, that your parent or legal guardian has signed it.

Your coach, or team representative should attend classification with you. (in the case of a minor this could be a parent). Check with your coach as to who will go with you.

If you need translation during classification this should be confirmed when the appointment is set – as to which language the appointment will take place in (French or English). Note that International Classification is conducted in English in most International Federations so all documentation is required in English if you are intending to pursue this route. If you have questions about this please contact your National Sport Organization or Canadian Blind Sports.

Some Things You Should Know

The classifier will look at your eyes and may have you look at the “Tumbling E’s” eye chart and describe what direction the letters are facing

Be prepared to answer questions about your medical history. Be as detailed as possible.

If you have glasses or contact lenses, please be sure to bring them with you as the Classifier may want to see them.

There is a possibility that the Classifier may want to dilate your pupils to take a better look into your eye. (See waiver form)

The specific tests you go through will depend on your eye condition.

Note that someone's classifications will take longer than others and the process you go through will depend on your specific eye condition and which tests need to be performed.

Typical Questions You May Be Asked:

- Were you classified before?
- What were you classified as?
- What is your diagnosis?
- When were you diagnosed?
- Is one eye better than the other?
- Which eye do you see better with?
- Are you on any medications?
- Have you had any medical procedures or surgeries?
- Do you have any procedures planned for the future?
- Are you under any treatment?
- Do you wear glasses or contacts? How often?
- Do your eyes bother you at all? Any irritation?
- (While shining a bright light on eyes) Can you see anything?



Athletes are responsible to answer honestly, fully and truthfully. Coaches, support staff, or accompanying persons are responsible to ensure that athletes answer honestly, fully and truthfully. Failure to fully cooperate in the classification process could result in the process being stopped or a finding of intentional misrepresentation. Sanctions for intentional misrepresentation for both athletes as well as coaches / support personnel are outlined in the Classification Rules and Regulations of your National Federation.

The classifier will go through the results of the classification with you and answer any questions you may have.

You will then be asked to sign the form and your coach will sign as well. This is an acknowledgement of receipt of the information – it is not an agreement with the outcome. Should you disagree with the outcome you should review the protest and appeal procedures.