

ASIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (APC)

CHESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM



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PART A

ASIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (APC) CHESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION AND DEFINATION

These Classification Rules are in accordance with the Asian Paralympic Committee [APC] Sports Assembly Executive Committee for Chess and shall be known as APC Chess.

A competitor is eligible to compete if they have been classified in accordance with the ;

International Blind Sports Association [IBSA] for the visually impaired and shall be referred to as CLASS CHB1, CHB2 and CHB3;

Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association [CP-ISRA] AND International Wheel-chair and Amputee Sports Association [IWAS] and be referred to CLASS CHPI

These rules shall be read in conjunction with the APC CHESS Rules.

PHILOSOPHY

- The purpose of classification is to establish eligibility to compete in disabled sport.
- The players cannot participate on reasonably equal terms in able body sport due to a functional disadvantage caused by a physical disability.
- The objective of the classification system is to group together those players who are eligible according to the following impairments:
 1. Visual impairment
 2. Loss of muscle power
 3. Hypertonia
 4. Short stature
 5. Loss of limb or limb deficiency
 6. Ataxia
 7. Athetosis

Players with conditions arising from pain, psychiatric conditions, unstable joint, poor muscle endurance, impaired cardiovascular or pulmonary conditions, chronic fatigue syndromes and myofascial pain are not eligible.

PROCESS OF CLASSIFICATION

1. Stage one: assessment of eligibility;
 - a. Athlete should submit to the Chess classification panel the medical diagnostic form to ascertain the eligibility of the player according to the eligible impairment as prescribed above
 - b. Forms and accompanying supporting documents should be submitted at least 3 months prior to competition.
 - c. The NPC shall be notified if the said player is eligible or not based on the criteria stated.
2. Classification period
 - a. Players shall be assessed according to the description stated in this manual
 - b. Players together with their coaches and or a translator should be within the classification hall at least 20 minutes prior to their scheduled classification period
 - c. Once the classification is done, the players are assigned with a class.
 - d. Rule of intentional misrepresentation is also observed. If a player or coach gives false information or does not cooperate as ascertained by the classifier, He/she will be disqualified and a "NEC" (not eligible, confirmed) is given. Hence will be permanently disqualified.
3. Observation
 - a. Once the play has started, the player is observed to verify the classification given. The rule of first appearance applies and if classification is verified, the player will be placed on "C", which means confirmed. However if the player needs to be reviewed, "R" is given if the last rounds has been conducted.
 - b. The coaches shall be informed of the final decision of the classification and whether the player is confirmed or reviewed.

When a protest regarding a classification is raised, a new classification panel should be assigned to reassess if the protest is valid or not.

Classifiers should always be prepared to spend time with athletes, coaches and team officials discussing the classification system in general so that they feel that they have access to the classifiers and that they are able to gain a greater understanding of the classification system.

CODE OF ETHICS – GENERAL

1. **Fair play** –classifiers and players should abide by the procedural and regulative rules of classification.
2. **Sportsmanship** –classifiers and players should abide by auxiliary rules regarding sportsmanship (so-called). .
Note: reference can be made to the APC internal rules and regulations in respect to fair play and sportsmanship.
3. **Use of protest** – protests should not be used in a manner that would unfairly affect the outcome of the competition i. e. in a technical manner.

GENERAL GUIDELINES OF CLASSIFICATION

CODE OF ETHICS - CLASSIFIER

All APC accredited classifiers undertake, on behalf of the national organizations and their athletes, to :

1. Act as a volunteer in the service of APC Chess, thereby respecting the democratically defined policies and operational by-laws of the APC.
2. Report at all times to the APC Chess Chief Classifier or the APC Chess Coordinator in all matters pertaining to the APC Chess Classification System and its application.
3. Exercise the classification function proficiently and rigorously without yielding to any financial, political, sporting or human pressure.
4. Be able to justify and explain decisions of Classification Panels without showing anger or resentment.
5. Publicly and privately respect the deliberations of the APC Chess Classification.

All APC Chess Classifiers will:

- 5.1. Respect all players, coaches, officials and spectators
- 5.2. Strive to gain respect for all international classifiers
- 5.3. Show respect to fellow international classifiers

And commit themselves to:

- 5.4. Respecting the APC Classification Code of Ethics
- 5.5. Distancing themselves from any gender oriented, political, religious or national bias
- 5.6. Always giving their best when performing the function of an APC international classifier

RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLASSIFIERS

1. Be competently informed through study and training in order to apply their best ability to application of up to date rules and regulations of the APC Chess.
2. To complete and return all cards to APC Chess administration.
3. Contribute to the development and dissemination of rules and regulations of the APC Chess Classification system to players, coaches and organizations throughout the world

AUTHORIZATION OF APC CHESS CLASSIFIERS

1. Authorization as APC Chess classifier is issued by the sports section.
2. An authorized APC Chess classifier should have classified players under supervision in at least 2 international competitions, within 3 years. To retain the authorization, one has to take part in international classification procedures every 3 years.
3. Persons wanting to become authorized APC Chess classifier must apply to the sports section in question.

ELIGIBILITY OF CLASSIFIERS

CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS

The classification requires a sufficient number of classification teams each comprising at least :

1. A doctor
2. A physiotherapist
3. A technical person (a former player, a coach.....)
4. The organizers and the classification teams must together take all steps necessary to have the classification completed at least two days prior to the competition.
5. The organizers have a duty to provide adequate facilities for examination purposes.

CLASSIFICATION DURING COMPETITIONS

1. Wherever possible classifiers are required to be present at competitions where any athlete is necessary to be observed.
2. Following the competition or when a decision is made on the athlete's class she / he shall be:
 - 2.1. Informed of the decision and if necessary, appropriate changes to his/her competition schedule, or:
 - 2.2. Be withdrawn from that competition and placed in the correct competition if the correct competition has not been competed:

THE RIGHTS OF PLAYERS:

Every players has the right within the rules of this classification system to:

- have confidence in the system and process and identify with the result.
- be placed in the correct class for his/her disability.
- be notified of her / his class on completion of the muscle chart.

NOTE: A tentative class may be allocated if the classifiers are not able to reach a conclusive decision.

- expect that all other players/athletes in the class have the same or similar potential formovement,
- privacy during the examination process, to the extent that it is possible.
- assume that all players/athletes answer all questions honestly and will perform all tests honestly just as they will themselves.
- to protest the outcome of the classification process.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLAYERS

1. Each player shall be liable to classification at competition.
2. Each player shall present him/herself for classification if and as requested.
3. Following the examination an athlete shall be liable to demonstrated her/his moving chesspieces technique on the competition venue if requested.
4. At the appointed time the players will be present at the area designated.
5. The players shall suitably dressed for the demonstration.
6. The players is required to use the wheelchair and all the equipment that she/he will use in competition.
7. The equipment used shall be fixed as it will be in competition.
8. The players is required to sit in the same way and use the same strapping and other equipment as will be used in competition.
9. The players is required to be warmed up so that she/he can perform to at least 90% of his/her total effort.
10. The players shall be notified of her/his class on completion of the demonstration.

NOTE 1. Following a warning a player is liable to be withdrawn from competition if she/he is still found to be uncooperative.

NOTE 2. The players may be required to present her/himself for checking of the muscle chart.

NOTE 3. The players may be given a temporary, Review (R) classification to be confirmed later.

MINIMAL DISABILITY

PREAMBLE

If players does not meet the conditions for Minimal impairment criteria, that player/athlete is not eligible to compete in international competition held under the rules and regulations of APC Chess. This also includes all international competition staged under the aegis of the APC.

DEFINITION

In order to be eligible to compete in APC competitions, the players must have a medically diagnosed disease or impairment that causes a permanent disability related.

This permanent disability must result in a substantial, or total, loss of function in some part of the body. If as a result of these functional limitations, the player is unable to compete in able- bodied chess, then the player is eligible to compete in international competition held under the rules and regulations of the APC, including APC multi-disability competitions.

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.1. PLAYERS WITH VISUAL DISABILITY

All visually impaired competitors shall be classified by an authorized ophthalmologist authorized by the International Blind Sports Association [IBSA] Classification Officer and APCChess.

Recognised classes for the visually impaired are as follows:

CHB1 (B1) : Visual Acuity is less than logMAR 2.60

CHB2 (B2) : Visual Acuity ranges from logMAR 2 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive): and/or
The visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees

CHB3 (B3) : Visual Acuity ranges from logMAR 2 1 to 1.40 (inclusive): and/or
The visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees

All classifications shall be made in the best eye with best correction. [ie all competitors who use contact or corrective lenses must wear them for classification, whether they intend wearing them, or not during competition].

11.2. PLAYERS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

CPISRA provides sports opportunities for individuals with neurological impairment, including spastic hypertonia, dystonia, athetosis and ataxia.

These impairment types are associated with a range of conditions including, but not limited to, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, Friedreich's Ataxia, Kugelberg Weyland

Syndrome, Fahr's Syndrome (Familial Idiopathic Basal Ganglia Calcification), Spinocerebellar Degenerative Disorders and Dystonia. To be eligible to compete, an Athlete must have a neurological impairment with motor control or power impairments originating from the brain with spasticity, ataxia or athetosis causing a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation (save that in the sport of Boccia, Athletes with impairments of a non-cerebral nature may compete). The level of neurological impairment associated with these conditions must disadvantage athletes as far as competing in high performance able bodied sport is concerned.

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 1: Motor Paresis or total paralysis of lower limbs.

At least a decrease in muscle strength of 20 points to include both upper limbs when testing on the 0 –5 scale grade system (not counting grade 1 and 2). A normal person obtains 60 points in each upper limb (total 120 points for both upper limbs). The following muscle functions in the arm and hand shall be tested:

JOINT	MOVEMENT	MUSCLE STRENGTH	
		RIGHT	LEFT
HIP	Flexion	5	5
	Extension	5	5
	Abduction	5	5
	Adduction	5	5
KNEE	Flexion	5	5
	extension	5	5
ANKLE	Dorsiflexion	5	5
	Plantar Flexion	5	5
	Sub Total	40	40
	GRAND TOTAL	80 POINTS	

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 2: Motor Paresis or total paralysis of upper limbs.

a. At least a decrease in muscle strength of 20 points to include both upper limbs when testing on the 0 –5 scale grade system (not counting grade 1 and 2). A normal person obtains 60 points in each upper limb (total 120 points for both upper limbs). The following muscle functions in the arm and hand shall be tested:

JOINT	MOVEMENT	MUSCLE STRENGTH	
		RIGHT	LEFT
SHOULDER	Flexion	5	5
	Extension	5	5
	Abduction	5	5
	Adduction	5	5
ELBOW	Flexion	5	5
	extension	5	5
WRIST	Flexion	5	5
	Extension	5	5
2-5 FINGERS	Flexion	5	5
	Extension	5	5
THUMB	Flexion	5	5
	Extension	5	5
	Sub Total	60	60
	GRAND TOTAL	120 POINTS	

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 3: Amputation (Acquired or Congenital)

Upper Limb : Have amputation through wrist joint and above.

Lower Limbs : Have amputation through ankle joint and above.

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 4: Joint mobility

The testing to be performed with the help of goniometer (passive movements)

JOINT	MOVEMENT
	LOWER EXTREMITY
HIPS	Decrease in Flexion – Extension of 60 degrees OR Ankylosis
KNEE	Extension defect of 30 degrees OR Ankylosis in any position
ANKLE	Ankylosis
	UPPER EXTREMITY
SHOULDER	Arm can be elevated to 135 degrees only, OR Ankylosis in any position
ELBOW	Extension defect of 45 degrees OR Ankylosis in any position
WRIST	Ankylosis

Type 5: Shortening of lower limb

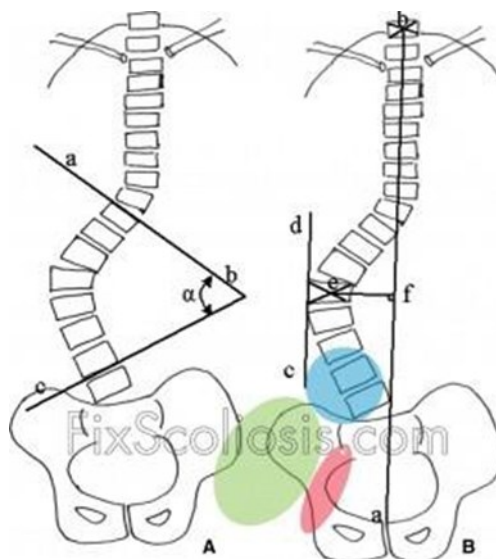
At least 7 cm difference. Measurements must be taken from anterior superior iliac spine to medial malleolus on same side.

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 6: Back and torso

Severely reduced mobility of a permanent nature and / or as in scoliosis measuring over **60degrees** curve as measured by the **Cobb method**. X-Ray proof is necessary.



Type 7: Dwarfs

The player must have either achondroplasia or variation of it.

The height restriction for **female is 140 cm** and for **male 145 cm**

11. CLASSIFICATION

11.3. PLAYERS WITH LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY

Type 8: Ataxia

Unsteadiness, incoordination or clumsiness of volitional movement and eligible ataxias must result either from motor or sensory nervous system dysfunction

Motor ataxias most frequently result from malformation or damage to the cerebellum and are often associated with hypotonia.

Sensory ataxias most frequently result from lower motor neuron damage or spinal cord disease, affecting vestibular function or proprioceptive function.

Visual input can help compensate for sensory ataxia and so sensory ataxias are often more evident when eyes are closed.

Tests :

- Finger to nose
- Finger to finger
- Toe to finger
- Heel draw test
- Straight line heel to toe walking
- Walking.

Type 9: Athetosis

Refers to unwanted movement and posturing resulting from damage to motor control centre of the brain, most frequently the basal ganglia.

The classification team should be satisfied that athetosis is clearly evident and that is neurological origin. Clearly evident is unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable as at least one of the following:

- involuntary movement of the finger or upper extremities despite the person trying to remain still
- involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the person trying to remain still
- Inability to hold the body still- swaying of the body.
- characteristic athetoid posturing.

Procedure for Establishing Minimal Disability

Where players is felt to be borderline minimal disability, it is the responsibility of the national organization to ensure that every effort has been taken to establish that players will meet the international classification rules and regulations as laid down by APC.

Such effort would include presentation of supporting documentation to the APC Chess Chief Classifier prior to a major event.

Supporting documentation detailing the nature, evolution, stability and prognosis of the physical disability, with specific reference as to how the disability affects movement, motor control and function can include letters and reports on medical history and objective physical examination findings and video footage.

It is in the players interest if there is any doubt as to their eligibility for classification, to ensure that their national organization has pursued all channels before entering an official APC competition.

PROTEST

A protest can be made by the country representative of the athlete being classified during the classification process.

Reassessment will take place by a second panel (no member of the first panel) before the competitions begins. Their decision is final.

A protest can be made on all athletes by either their own country, or another country during their first appearance, or event at the particular competition. If the protest is upheld then the results of the event are amended accordingly. The athlete when then move over to her or his new class.

A protest can be made by one of the classifiers (without protest fees).

All protest must be made on the correct form provided by the sports section within 60 minutes after the classification process, or the first appearance of players (within 60 minutes after end of the game) and submitted by the appropriate fee. If protest upheld, fee returned: if overturned, fee is retained.

APC CHESS CLASSIFICATION PROFILE

VISSION IMPAIRMENT

CLASSIFICATION	
CHB1	Visual Acuity is less than logMAR 2.60
CHB2	Visual Acuity ranges from logMAR 2 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive): and/or
	The visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees
CHB3	Visual Acuity ranges from logMAR 2 1 to 1.40 (inclusive): and/or
	The visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees

All classification shall be based on examination of both eyes with the best correction. (i.e. All players who use contact lenses must wear them for classification, whether they intend to compete wearing them or not.

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

CLASSIFICATION	
CHPI	CEREBRAL PALSY and ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY, LOCOMOTOR DISABILITY, AMPUTATION, JOINT MOBILITY DISABILITY, SHORTENING OF LOWER LIMB, BACK AND TORSO DISABILITY (SCOLIOSIS) AND DWARF

All players under physical impairments must meet MINIMAL DISABILITY conditions as explained in **B** and **C**.