

UCI Para-cycling Classifiers Pathway

To classify Athletes with a Physical Impairment (PI)



Diagram 1. Classifier Pathway and Additional Training Modules

UCI Classifier for Athletes with a Physical Impairment (PI)

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the UCI to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel in accordance with the UCI Para-cycling Rules and Regulations and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

There are two types of UCI Classifiers who classify Athletes with a Physical Impairment (PI):

1. Medical Classifier
2. Technical Classifier.

In order to be certified as a Classifier, the UCI requires Classifiers to have one or more of the following qualifications:

Medical Classifier: A certified health professional which the UCI at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a medical doctor or physiotherapist, who has experience treating people with physical impairments and who are trained to assess muscle strength, range of motion, balance and coordination.

Technical Classifier: Sport specific and/or technical experts with an extensive background in the sport of cycling, e.g. certified coaches, bike fit experts, experts in human movement science or equivalent, with the ability to analyse gait and assess the athlete on the bicycle/tricycle/handcycle which the UCI at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

UCI Classifier Pathway

The UCI Classifier Pathway (Diagram 1) consists of three (3) levels:

1. National Classifier
2. Elite National Classifier
3. International Classifier

National and Elite National Classifiers are certified to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation at a National level. International Classifiers are certified by the UCI to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation at the International level. Additional education modules are offered to International Classifiers who wish to become a Chief Classifier or a Classifier Educator.

The UCI recommend that anyone with an interest in becoming a classifier complete the 'IPC Introduction to Para-sport' online programme, available using the following link:

<https://ipc-academy.org/?academy=1&area=online>

This online programme is free of charge and introduces the International Paralympic Committee, its roles, structure and history as well as the key principles of Classification which are applicable for all Paralympic sports. It provides an important education programme for all those interested in the Paralympic Movement and Paralympic sport. There are two modules: 1. Introduction to the Paralympic movement; and 2. Classification in the Paralympic Movement. The Classification module gives an insight to the history of classification, understanding the IPC Classification Code, understanding the meaning of Evidence-based classification, and the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

The IPC Introduction to Para-sport is a prerequisite to all levels of the UCI Classifier Pathway.

1. National Classifier

A National Classifier is a classifier certified by a National Federation (NF) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation at a National level.

The National Classifier Education Programme is the first step for those with an interest in becoming a classifier. It is recommended that all candidates attending a National Classifier Education Programme have one or more of the qualifications required by the UCI to become a Medical or a Technical Classifier.

Learning Objectives and Programme Content

The objectives of a National Classifier Education Programme are to provide participants with the theoretical and practical training required to classify athletes at the national level. The content of the programme should include, but is not limited to, an understanding of:

- the process of Athlete Evaluation;
- the Eligible Impairments and Underlying Health Conditions applicable to Para-cycling;
- the methods of assessment specific to Para-cycling;
- the Para-cycling Sport Classes and application of Sport Class Status;
- the importance of the Medical Diagnostic Form.

Programme Delivery

Some developed NFs/NPCs have existing National Classifier Education Programmes, whereby National Classifiers are trained and certified by their respective NF/NPC. For those Nations who do not have existing programmes, UCI Classifier Educators may conduct a National Classifier Education Programme upon request of the NF/NPC. The certification of a National Classifier is at the discretion of the respective NF/NPC. If UCI Classifier Educators conduct a National Classifier Education Programme, the Educators shall recommend to the NF/NPC those classifiers who have the competencies to classify on a National Level.

Any Nation interested in hosting a National Classifier Education Programme may contact the UCI at classification@uci.ch.

To progress on the pathway to becoming an International Classifier, as a prerequisite, classifiers must be certified as a National Classifier.

2. Elite National Classifier

The Elite National Classifier Education Programme is designed to standardise the education of classifiers under the control of the UCI, to ensure that all Classifiers attending an International Classifier Education Programme have a thorough understanding of the UCI Classification rules and regulations, the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International standards, as well as sufficient experience classifying athletes Nationally.

This programme is for those National Classifiers who have limited classification practice and/or who do not yet have the required level of knowledge of the rules to become an International Classifier. This programme is also aimed at those National Classifiers with the desire to improve their knowledge without necessarily aspiring to become an International Classifier.

All candidates attending an Elite National Classifier Education Programme must have one or more of the qualifications required by the UCI to become a Medical or a Technical Classifier.

Learning Objectives and Programme Content

The objectives of the Elite National Classifier Education Programme are to provide participants with a higher level of theoretical knowledge and practical training, and to prepare Classifiers to attend an International Classifier Education Programme. The content of the programme will be similar to that of the National Classifier Education Programme but on an advanced level as candidates will be expected to have a basic understanding of the rules and some practical experience.

Programme Delivery

The certification of Elite National Classifier is awarded by the UCI and the programme will be taught in English by UCI Classifier Educators. Elite National Classifiers are not eligible to classify Internationally but may be appointed by their NF/NPC to classify Nationally in their own country (at the discretion of the NF/NPC).

National Elite Classifier training is a prerequisite for access to the International Classifier Education Programme. If an Elite National Classifier is interested, and after having classified for at least two years or two competitions since being certified, the NF may propose him or her as a candidate for an International Classifier Education Programme. This proposal may also come from the UCI if it considers that a Classifier's skills are adequate to become an International Classifier.

National Elite Classifier Education Programmes shall be organised by the UCI as and when a sufficient number of Classifiers have registered their interest. National Federations may submit an expression of interest, which can be found on the UCI website, to classification@uci.ch.

3. International Classifier

An International Classifier is certified by the UCI to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation at the International level. As per the [International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training](#), to be certified as a Classifier by the UCI, Classifiers shall have the following competencies:

- A thorough understanding of the [UCI Classification Rules and Regulations](#);
- An understanding of the UCI Regulations, in particular Part [16: Para-cycling](#);
- An understanding of the [IPC Athlete Classification Code and the International Standards](#);
- One or more of the qualifications identified by the UCI to become a Medical or a Technical Classifier;
- The experience, skills and competencies to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the [International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#).

To be eligible to attend an International Classifier Education Programme, classifiers must meet the following prerequisites:

- Completion of the IPC Introduction to Para-sport ([online programme](#));
- National Classifier Certification;
- Elite National Classifier Certification*;
- Relevant qualification;
- Have a good command of English language, written and verbal;
- Recommendation by the NF/NPC or the UCI.

*At the discretion of the UCI, National Classifiers who have been trained to a high level through an existing National Classifier Education Programme in their respective country, and who can demonstrate a sufficient amount of practical experience classifying Nationally, may proceed to the International Classifiers Education Course without completing the Elite National Classifiers Education Programme. The UCI may request the

course syllabus and/or competency transcripts to ensure National Classifiers entering the International Classifiers Education Course have the required knowledge and practical experience.

Learning Objectives and Programme Content

The objectives of the International Classifier Education Programme are to provide participants with the theoretical knowledge and practical training required to conduct International Classification including, but not limited to, a thorough understanding of the following:

- the UCI Classification Rules and Regulations and accurate application;
- the Eligible Impairments and Underlying Health Conditions applicable to Para-cycling;
- the process of Athlete Evaluation;
- the assessment methods specific to Para-cycling and accurate application;
- the Sport Class Profiles, and accurately allocating a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Programme Delivery

The certification of an International Classifier is awarded by the UCI and the programme will be delivered by certified UCI Classifier Educators. The programme shall be run alongside a UCI Para-cycling competition where International Classification is offered and shall consist of two components:

1. Theory
2. Practical

Candidates who pass the theory component (written theory 75%) shall be awarded the status of Trainee Classifier and may progress to the Practical component, participating in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation at the respective competition under the supervision of the classification panel, to develop the necessary Classifier competencies.

Candidates who do not pass the theory component will be permitted to observe international classification at the competition at which the course takes place, but must repeat the course in its entirety and pass the theory component prior to being permitted to complete the practical component.

Trainee Classifiers must successfully complete a minimum of two practical opportunities within two (2) years to be certified by the UCI as an International Classifier. The second practical opportunity will take place at a second separate International Classification under the supervision of a Classification Panel. Once a Trainee Classifier has successfully completed the practical component on two occasions, the Trainee will be certified by the UCI as an International Classifier and will be permitted to be appointed as a member of a Classification Panel at International Classification opportunities.

If, after three practical opportunities, the Trainee Classifier has not demonstrated the practical competencies required to be certified as an International Classifier, the Trainee Classifier status will be removed, and the candidate will be required to repeat the International Classifier Education Programme in its entirety.

The Classifier Educator shall provide those Trainee Classifiers who are unsuccessful with a report detailing the actions necessary to gain the competencies required to be an International Classifier. Candidates must fulfil any such actions prior to being accepted to attend another International Classifier Education Programme.

Equally, if two years have elapsed since successful completion of the theoretical component and the Trainee Classifier has not completed two successful practical opportunities, the Trainee Classifier status will be removed, and the candidate will be required to repeat the International Classifier Education Programme in its entirety.

4. Certification and Re-certification

The period of certification as a UCI International Classifier is four (4) years. Classifiers are expected to classify as part of an International Classification Panel at least once per season.

Once an International Classifier's certification expires, classifiers must attend a re-certification course to demonstrate they continue to have the competencies necessary to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel. Re-certification concludes by an assessment of competencies. Failure to classify in a season may lead to a classifier being requested to undergo re-certification prior to the expiration of their period of certification.

If a classifier is not considered to have the competencies necessary to be re-certified as an International Classifier, the certification will not be renewed, and that classifier will no longer be eligible for appointment as an International Classifier. That classifier will be required to successfully undertake the International Classifiers Education Programme in its entirety before being certified once again as an International Classification.

a. Classifier Seminars

Classifiers will be invited to attend a classifier seminar for training and improving skills which may take place every 1 – 2 years. These seminars will be led by UCI Classifier Educators and are aimed at standardising classification practices among UCI International Classifiers. These seminars conclude by an assessment of proficiency.

Classifiers will also be expected to take part in a refreshment session upon arrival at a competition and prior to the start of classification.

Classifiers who do not take part in the seminars, or who do not demonstrate the competencies required to be a classifier, may be requested to undergo re-certification prior to the expiration of their period of certification and will not be appointed in the meantime by the UCI. If necessary, the certification of UCI International Classifier is withdrawn.