



## Memorandum

**To:** World Para Athletics PI International Classifiers  
**From:** Hilary Beeton, WPA Head of Classification / Peter Van de Vliet, IPC  
Medical & Scientific Director  
**Date:** 23 March 2018  
**Re:** Sport Class Status for Athletes with Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis

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Dear World Para Athletics PI Classifiers,

Following the publication of the 2018 [WPA Classification Rules and Regulations](#) (the Rules), we would like to provide clarification on the following item:

### **Sport Class Status for Athletes with Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis (Athletes in the 30s Sport Classes) - Article 15 and Appendix One, Section 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 3.1**

The nature of the many, complex underlying conditions behind the impairments of Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis means that from a sport point of view, there is always a potential for unforeseen changes over time. This may be due to changes in the severity of the impairment or changes in how well the body is able to control them. With this in mind, and also as evidence-based standardised testing procedures continue to evolve, WPA directs the classifiers to no longer confirm athletes in the 30's classes, and instead use the review and where possible the fixed review date options. This will allow WPA to evaluate and improve the rules and testing procedures over the coming years whilst helping to avoid the need to once again put such a large number of athletes on "immediate review".

Classification Panels should therefore **not** allocate Sport Class Status *Confirmed* to Athletes presenting with Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis for the time being, but rather utilise Sport Class Status *Review* (Article 15.5) or *Review with Fixed Review Date* (Article 15.6), according to the description provided in the Rules. In deciding on Review with Fixed Date for a period of up to 4 years (including 1, 2, and 3 years), panels should carefully consider the nature and severity of Impairment, the maturity of the Athlete (including years of experience in sport) and the timing of future major events (ability to eventually see the athlete again prior to a major event). Where possible, guidance will be provided upon review

#### International Paralympic Committee

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of the medical documentation and in case of any further doubt during Athlete Evaluation; the Chief Classifier at the event should be consulted.

Should the Athletes, support personnel and/or NPCs seek for an explanation on why Athletes in the 30s are kept under fixed review, please guide them towards Article 15 which explains Sport Class Status designation. If further follow up is required, please direct them to the WPA.

For any questions, please contact [tea.cisic@paralympic.org](mailto:tea.cisic@paralympic.org).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Beeton".

Hilary Beeton  
World Para Athletics Head of Classification  
International Paralympic Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Van de Vliet".

Peter Van de Vliet  
Medical & Scientific Director  
International Paralympic Committee

Cc. Haozhe Gao, World Para Athletics Senior Manager

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