



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: Stimulation or Inhibitory Neuro Devices

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:

Stimulation or Inhibitory Neuro Devices

Neuro devices (either in the brain or a peripheral application) may change the impact of spasticity, ataxia and dystonia / athetosis on movement. There are many different kinds of devices including baclofen pump (reduces spasticity), neuro stimulator (possible side effect is a tremor/ataxia), cochlear implant (possible side effect is the increase of balance problems), etc. Of concern is that some of the devices can be switched on and off by the user at any time, and others provide intermittent stimulation with a temporary effect on movement with an increase or decrease of activity limitations in sport, which may have an impact on the Sport Class allocation.

The use of such a device must be declared by the athlete and the details of the device must be recorded on the classification form, including brand name and specifications (if available), and a description by the athlete of effect of device on his/her movement.

Classifiers should allocate a sport class status only after very careful consideration of the implications and/or side effects of such devices and whether or not the device is under the personal control of the user and ultimately the impact of such devices on sport performance. If there is any doubt about the temporary or long-term impact of a neuro device on sport performance, the athlete using such a device should not get Sport Class Status Confirmed or Fixed Review Date but always a Review Status.

International Paralympic Committee

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Reported use of neuro devices must be included in the Chief Classifier report. WPA will then initiate follow-up with the NPC to retrieve more detail if necessary. We will provide further updates once WPA has furthered its understanding of the use and impact of such devices.

For any questions, please contact 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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