



To: NPCs practicing swimming

05 January 2009

Subject: Changes implemented in IPC Swimming

Dear President/Secretary General,

Stepping into 2009, IPC Swimming has identified a number of changes to follow up on in order to meet the requirements of the Classification Code ("Code") and to begin to operate in accordance with these requirements. The changes implemented are in relation to:

- Classification data migration and international statuses
- Classification of athletes with a visual impairment
- International classification
- Classifiers' pathway

Please note that all the changes will be reflected in the updated Classification Manual.

IPC Swimming Classification data migration

The current classification data has been migrated into the new Atos Origin tool, which will create a single integrated database. The new database combines the classification information with the results and records as achieved. The tool will allow accurate data management for IPC Swimming; therefore it will be beneficial for the membership as they will receive higher level service.

Prior to 2009 IPC Swimming had 5 international statuses (N, R, P, PP, NE).

From 05 January 2009 onward, there will be 4 international statuses (N, R, C and NE). Swimmers with C and R statuses will be able to achieve results for IPC Swimming ranking lists and only athletes with a C status will be able to set records. Results will only be recognized for IPC Swimming licensed athletes.



IPC Swimming will introduce a transitional period from 05 January 2009 until 31 December 2009. The classification data will be converted using the following status and status equivalents:

- **Current N status** will remain N
- **Current R status** will remain R
- **Current P status** will become C.
During the transition period NPCs and Chief Classifiers will be able to protest swimmers who have a C status in the classification database, provided they do not have the exception code P*. As of 01 January 2010 only the Chief Classifier under exceptional circumstances will be able to lodge a protest on a C status athlete (provided that the athlete does not have a P exception code).
- **Current PP status** will become C with the added exception code of P*.

*P exception code will be included in the new database and the list of codes as published on the IPC Swimming website. The new exception code will help to distinguish athletes with previous P status from athletes with previous PP status.

International Classification

International classification status may be granted if the following criteria are fulfilled:

- The competition is an approved/sanctioned IPC competition
- The competition has open entry or has established qualification criteria approved by IPC Swimming (i.e. Paralympic Games, World Championships, Regional Championships)
- All classifiers conducting the classification(s) are appointed by IPC Swimming

The original evaluation sheets are forwarded to the IPC Swimming office within 10 business days following the conclusion of the competition.



Athletes wishing to be classified on an international level will need to be licensed by IPC Swimming.

For those swimmers where further medical documentation is required, final status allocation will be made by the Head of Classification in consultation with the Chief Classifier for the relevant competition.

Please note: Non-fulfillment of the request for documentation by the NPC will lead to the athlete being ineligible to compete in IPC Swimming competitions. The NPC will not be refunded any license fee and competition entry fee paid for this athlete.

If a swimmer who has been classified prior to a competition does not compete in the competition, the allocated sport status will remain N. The NPC will not be refunded any license fee and competition entry fee paid for this athlete.

Classification of athletes with a visual impairment

The current practice of class allocation by accepting medical findings of a national ophthalmologist submitted by the NPC will no longer be in practice from 05 January 2009 onward. Rather, VI athletes need to present themselves for classification at competitions and bring all relevant medical documentation with them. IPC Swimming will work toward a sport-specific classification system for athletes with a visual impairment which will be in compliance with the Code. Further communication will follow from the IPC HQ on this initiative.

Athletes with a visual impairment will also need to be licensed before the classification start.

NPCs requesting international classification, review or protesting their athletes' sport class have to send the relevant documentation to IPC Swimming office.



Classifiers' Pathway

In accordance with the Code there are 3 categories of classifiers: trainee, Level 1 and Level 2 classifiers.

Trainee classifier

Individuals who successfully complete the on-line course and attended one practical course are considered Trainee classifiers.

Pathway to Level 1 Classifier

Those Trainee classifiers who are evaluated by Level 2 classifiers at IPC Swimming classification courses can be nominated to Level 1 classifier if recommended by the evaluation panel (this is marked on the evaluation form). The evaluators must agree unanimously that the Trainee classifier's knowledge, experience and classification management skills meet or exceed the IPC Swimming Level 1 Classifier criteria and expectations. The proposal for the nomination is to be forwarded to IPC Swimming by the evaluation panel, who will then make the official appointment to Level 1 Classifier.

Course expenses for trainee classifiers are not IPC Swimming/LOC responsibility.

Pathway to Level 2 Classifier

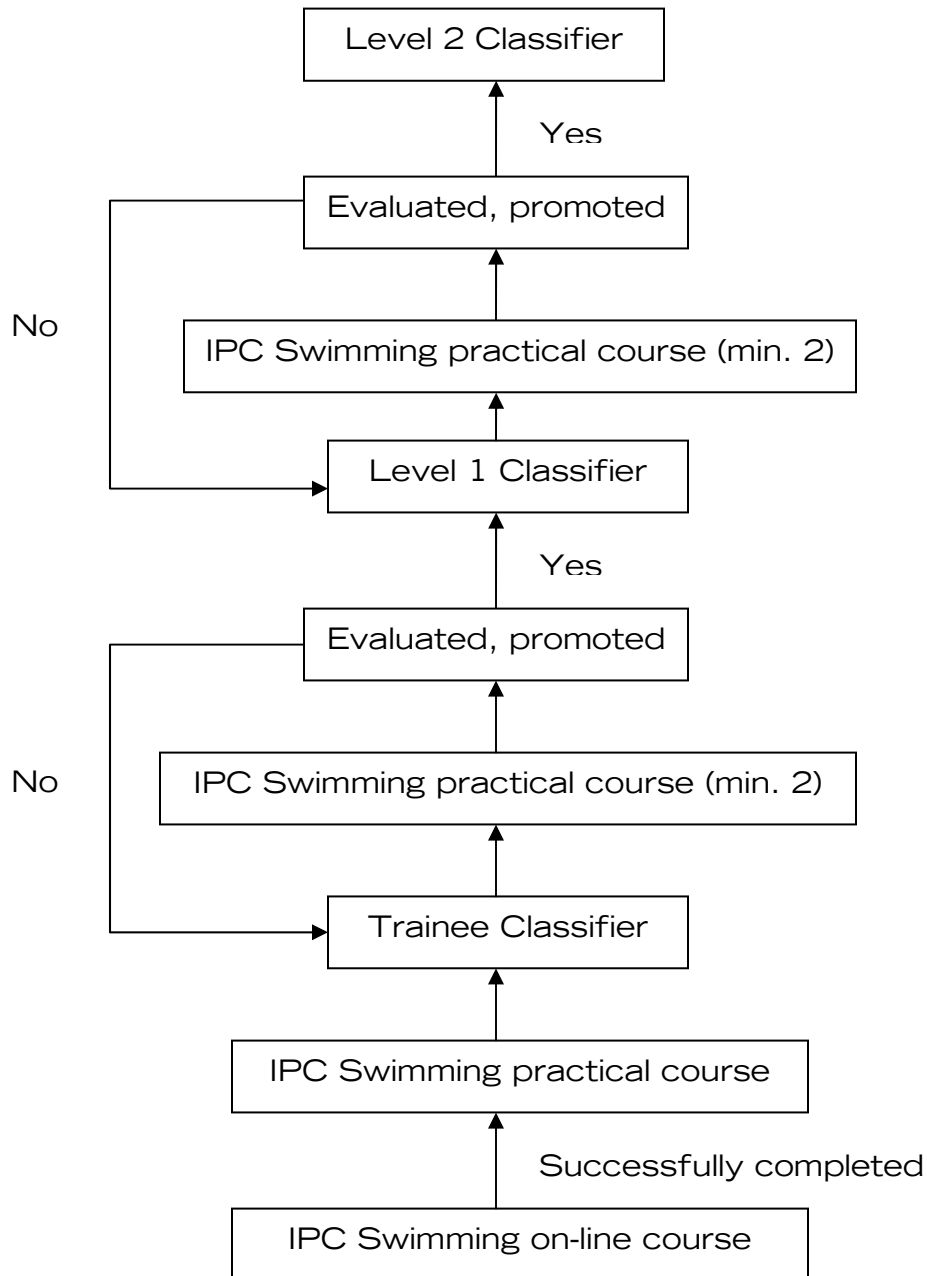
Those Level 1 classifiers who are evaluated by Level 2 classifiers at IPC Swimming classification course can be nominated to Level 2 classifier status if recommended by the evaluation panel (this is marked on the evaluation form). The evaluators must agree unanimously that the Level 1 classifier's knowledge, experience and classification management skills meet or exceed the IPC Swimming Level 2 Classifier criteria and expectations. The proposal for the nomination is to be forwarded by the evaluation panel to IPC Swimming, who will then make the official appointment to Level 2 Classifier.

IPC Swimming will sponsor attendance at 2 courses for Level 1 classifiers. Any additional courses required for the Level 1 classifier to be promoted to Level 2 shall be the responsibility of the individual classifier/NPC/NF.

Further details on the classification pathway will be included in the Classification Manual.

IPC Swimming will maintain a list of each category of classifiers.

Diagram of IPC Swimming Classification Pathway





Based on the limited number of possibilities for advancement in recent years by no Regional Classifiers attending Paralympic Games or World Championships, IPC Swimming is officially appointing a number of regional classifiers to IPC Swimming Level 2 Classifier. The appointments are based on the classifiers' work, experience, commitment and evaluation feedback from senior classifiers. The following lists are the 2009 IPC Swimming Classifiers:

Trainees who attended a course in 2007/08:

Medical	Classifiers			Technical	Classifiers	
Andre	Christiaens	BEL		Antonella	Galvan	ITA
Brian	Houston	GBR		Christine	Lineker	GBR
Edit	Meszaros	HUN		Gary	Thomas	GBR
Eva	Ruiz	ESP		Glen	O'Sullivan	USA
George	Kyrligitsis	GRE		Hanoch	Budin	ISR
Julie	Simard	CAN		Ingrid	Ravnar	NOR
Julie	Cooper	GBR		Jacquellie	Penafort	BRA
Kelly	Atkins	CAN		Jane	Cattle	GBR
Kerry	Allan	GBR		Michelle	Killins	CAN
Mohamed	Al Mousa	KSA				
Pamela	Wilson	USA				
Shanna	Harrington	USA				
Spyros	Spyrou	GRE				

Level 1 Classifiers:

Medical	Classifiers			Technical	Classifiers	
Jana	Svarcova	CZE		Jasna	L.Drenjak	CRO
Mary	Carpenter	USA		Mark	Maxwell	USA
Prapaporn	Sirisabya	THA		Nobu	Konishi	JPN
Zoltan	Bejek	HUN				



Level 2 Classifiers:

Medical	Classifiers		Technical	Classifiers	
Bartlomiej	Holda	POL	Dave	Thomas	USA
Conrado	Jaubert	ESP	Dea	Slattery	RSA
Jane	Buckley	AUS	Frank	Verreij	NED
Janet	Dunn	CAN	James	Hood	CAN
Karin	Huber	AUT	Julie	O'Neill	USA
Mari	Jokitalo-Trebs	FIN	Karen	Garrard	AUS
Martinus	Aarts	SUI	Kim	Grootveld	CAN
Rafi	Heruti	ISR	Marcela	Abascal	ARG
Sheng-Kuang	Wu	TPE			
Uri	Siriwatvejakul	THA			

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Agnes Szilak".

Agnes Szilak
IPC Swimming Sport Manager
International Paralympic Committee