



Workshop about Classification

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Trunk profiles

After the WC 2018 the half point scores of the Trunk will be counted (which we did not till now), making classes from the 'in between' profiles. This change is based on the results which comes from evidence based research concerning the impact the Trunk does have on the sport specific activities in PCH.

Example: the Arm profile (Ap) 4.0 + Trunk profile (Tp) 0.5 will become the 4.5 class, instead of the 4.0 class as it is now. That means that we will have the classes: 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5: 9 classes in total.

(Many) years ago Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby did the same: WB went from 3 to 8 classes and WR from 3 to 7 classes, decreasing the range of activity limitations in one class. We will now do the same in PCH.

Arm profiles

Working with half point classes will give us new opportunities: we can, easily, integrate also half point Arm profiles without changing the way we do assess the athlete currently.

The classification (system) is still 'out of balance' when we only integrate half point Trunk scores but no half point Arm scores.

Explanation: till now we did only worked with full point Arm profiles: 1 or 2 or 3 or 4. We assessed the sub-Ap scores during the Physical Assessment, searched for confirmation in the Technical Assessment, and than made a decision of the 'entry sport class' which was written down on the classification form and which had to be confirmed during the Observational Assessment.

For example: Ap 2 or Ap 3, but not the Ap 2.5 profile. Which means that a player with this current Arm profile 2 or 3 and 0.5 Trunk profile can only become a class 2.5 or class 3.5: not a class 3.0.

This current procedure is (a) to 'rough', putting athletes with a big range in activity limitation in one class and (b) the current procedure allowed for different interpretations between classifiers leading to different scores of the same arm.

We classifiers can improve on assessing the Arm profile by using a more systematic approach: 'breaking down' the PCH arm movements in kinematic 'pieces', called 'movement couples', which enables us to be more precise, by also having the half point Arm profiles. In this way we can work more consistently without changing the way we are assessing now.

Research on the Arm profiles was done in April and May 2018 on the classification data of 70 recently classified Dutch national players and on the classification data of

another 70 international players from Italy, Swiss, The Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Denmark, 140 athlete data in total. The results were discussed within the classification committee. With this updated, practical, systematic classification procedure, we can make (more) reliable Arm profiles in full scores or half points, without changing the way we are assessing currently, while the needed data is already on the PCH classification form!

This will make the PCH classification system (more) precise and balanced.

Round of consideration about the total point score on the floor

PCH is currently played with 11 points as the maximum point score on the floor.

Sport Executive Committee and Classification Committee have heard about some Nations wishing to decrease it to 10 and other wishing to raise the total of points allowed on the floor.

Therefore a round of consideration will be done to hear opinions and reasoning from all the present delegates and Nations.

Some important aspects have to be considered when thinking of changing this total point score:

(1) *Participation of all classes:*

This must be secured while the goal of classification is to let the impairment not play a role on the team composition: each athlete, independent of (severity of) impairment, must have the opportunity to participate and have the possibility to become a world class athlete.

(2) *Wish of keep representing very severe disable players*

This is the main reason our sport was born. Giving also to very severely disabled people the chance to compete to an elite level and in a team sport. Even if nowadays more possibilities are open and available we know our spot on Paralympic movement is also linked to this representation and involvement of people who have Powerchair hockey as main or unique choice for playing a team sport.

(3) *Attractivity of the game:*

Higher functions levels, represented by athletes in the higher classes, will give more possibility for fast 'triangle-play', resulting in a faster, even more open and potentially even more attractive game. This is important as well while attractivity will help further to 'sell' our sport, facilitating probably media coverage and eventually attracting new players.

A total point score that is based on only one of the above mentioned two aspects, will be insufficient. The challenge will be to combine both aspects in the final point score decision.

During the workshop all present country-representatives will be requested to express their point of view or wish. The SEC will collect the opinions and the motivations and will then decide on this issue, together with the classification committee, soon after the Sport Congress.