PARA GYMNASTICS
CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK AND ANNEXES

Pilot-Year Testing Edition
Drafted for the first 12 months of testing and education (October 2026 – October 2027)

Prepared for use by National Federations, gymnasts, coaches, judges, classifier personnel and support personnel during the first year of Para gymnastics testing and education.

Important drafting note: This handbook is designed to align with the 2025 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code, the IPC Model Classification Rules, and World Gymnastics development documents, while remaining intentionally simple and accessible for pilot use. Full long-term IPC compliance will depend on future formal rule adoption, evidence development and review.

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1. Purpose of this handbook

This handbook explains how Para gymnastics classification will operate during the first year of testing. It is written as a practical guide for National Federations, gymnasts, coaches, judges, classifier personnel and support personnel. The document combines a simplified framework with operational annexes so that the sport can be introduced consistently and safely while evidence is gathered for future development.

The handbook is intentionally more accessible than a final long-form rulebook. It is designed to help Federations understand the pathway into Para gymnastics, enter gymnasts into pilot activities, support fair and meaningful competition testing, and contribute structured feedback for the next phase of development.

2. Pilot-year rationale and development approach

Para Artistic Gymnastics is entering a critical phase of structured international development under the authority of World Gymnastics. The first year is a pilot phase. It is not intended to represent a fully mature or final international classification system. Instead, it provides a structured and transparent starting point for the sport to be understood, tested and improved.

The main aims of the pilot year are to:

- Help National Federations understand the new discipline and encourage participation;
- Support gymnasts to enter testing events and demonstration opportunities;
- Test the fairness and practicality of the Para gymnastics Code of Points and classification approach;
- Collect feedback from gymnasts, coaches, judges, classifiers and National Federations;
- Build a stronger evidence base to inform later refinement and future IPC-compliant development.

Because the system is in an early stage, research, field observation and structured feedback gathered during the first 12 months will inform a formal review and update process. This means that athletes and Federations are participating in a development phase: the aim is to learn, test and improve, while still applying a fair, respectful and consistent framework from the beginning.

This developmental rationale should be communicated clearly in all education materials, event information and classification communications. Participation in the first year is therefore both a competitive opportunity and a contribution to the responsible development of the discipline.

3. Core principles of classification

- Classification exists to ensure that the outcome of competition is determined by training, skill and execution rather than by the degree of impairment.
- Classification is sport-specific. It focuses on how an impairment affects the activities fundamental to gymnastics.
- Diagnosis is the principal starting point for all classification in Paralympic sport. Once diagnosis is known, a functional impairment assessment is carried out to determine sport class.
- Classification must be evidence-based, transparent, respectful and consistently documented.
- Classification does not assess courage, commitment, effort, worth or talent.

- Performance does not equal eligibility. A gymnast may perform at a high level and still have a significant eligible impairment. Equally, low performance does not in itself prove that an athlete meets classification criteria.

4. Scope and application

This handbook applies to World Gymnastics Para gymnastics pilot activities during the first 12 months of testing. It is intended for international development use and may also inform national implementation. National Federations may create additional domestic participation routes or open groups for development purposes, but international architecture during the pilot year remains grounded in this handbook.

The handbook should be read together with the applicable Para gymnastics Code of Points and event information. Classification determines eligibility and grouping. The Code of Points determines how routines are judged.

5. Classification pathway

The World Gymnastics pilot-year pathway follows the recognised sequence used in IPC-aligned Para sport development:

- Underlying Health Condition (UHC). This is the medical diagnosis confirmed by the medical professional.
- Eligible Impairment (EI)
- Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)
- Sport Class Allocation
- Sport Class Status

Each step must be considered in order. An athlete cannot be allocated a sport class unless the earlier stages have been satisfied. This protects both athlete rights and the credibility of the system.

6. Underlying Health Condition

Before a gymnast can be considered for classification, the Classification Team must be able to verify that the gymnast has an Underlying Health Condition. This is the diagnosed health condition that gives rise to the impairment being presented for Para gymnastics classification.

The Underlying Health Condition should be supported by appropriate medical evidence, such as clinic letters, diagnostic reports, ophthalmology evidence for visual impairment, operative summaries, imaging summaries, prosthetic or clinical notes, or other relevant documentation. Where available, the diagnosis may be recorded using ICD-10 terminology.

Having an Underlying Health Condition does not automatically mean that a gymnast is eligible for Para gymnastics. The condition must lead to one of the eligible impairment groups included in the pilot-year framework, and the impairment must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para gymnastics.

If the Classification Team cannot verify the Underlying Health Condition from the evidence provided, the gymnast may be asked to submit further information, or the classification process may not be completed.

In simple terms: diagnosis comes first, but eligibility depends on whether that diagnosis causes an eligible impairment that significantly affects gymnastics-specific activity.

7. Eligible impairments

For the pilot year, the eligible impairment groups have been set and only gymnasts with eligible impairments as listed below will be permitted to take part in Para gymnastics in this pilot year. The focus is intentionally limited so that implementation remains clear and manageable in the first year.

Eligible impairments for Para Artistic Gymnastics:

- Upper limb impairment
- Lower limb impairment
- Visual impairment

The following are not eligible impairments under the proposed pilot rules:

- Short stature
- Intellectual impairment
- Hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis
- Spinal conditions such as scoliosis

Even when an impairment is visible or affects appearance, it may still be non-eligible if it does not meet the sport-specific criteria. Likewise, some eligible impairments may not be obvious to an observer. Function matters more than appearance.

For the first year, this limited scope helps Federations understand who the current pilot system is designed for. It also helps classifier personnel apply a consistent approach while evidence and participation grow.

8. Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

The Minimum Impairment Criteria section below should be used without variation as the formal Year 1 MIC statement.

Formal Year 1 MIC statement

To be eligible for classification, an athlete must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC). The impairment must have a measurable and significant impact on at least one of the following key performance determinants in artistic gymnastics:

- Weight-bearing through the upper or lower limbs (including the ability to grip with hands)
- Support in handstands and inverted positions
- Push-off and take-off
- Visual information used for spatial orientation, apparatus awareness, balance, timing, take-off, landing preparation and movement control

For gymnasts with visual impairment, the impact must be assessed through how reduced visual acuity and/or visual field affects gymnastics-specific activity, rather than by diagnosis alone. The Classification Team should consider whether the impairment materially affects the gymnast's ability to orientate safely, align to apparatus, judge distance and height, prepare for take-off or landing, maintain balance and control, or perform skills consistently in a gymnastics environment.

If the impairment does not have a significant impact on these determinants, the athlete does not meet MIC, even if an impairment exists.

Explanatory guidance for Year 1

MIC is the threshold that protects the integrity of Para gymnastics. It does not ask whether an athlete has worked hard, whether a condition is visible, or whether the gymnast is successful in competition. MIC asks whether the eligible impairment significantly affects the fundamental activities that gymnastics requires.

For education purposes, classifier personnel and Federations should understand the four determinants in practical terms:

- Weight-bearing through the upper or lower limbs and ability to grip with hands refers to the athlete's ability to support load safely and effectively through the arms and/or legs during gymnastics skills. The grip with hands component refers to the athlete's ability to maintain connection and control with the gymnastics apparatus; using their hands to grip and release safely, supporting body weight in static, swing, catch and release phases of gymnastics skills.
- Support in handstands and inverted positions refers to stable and functional support during positions and transitions that load the upper limbs or challenge body alignment.
- Push-off and take-off refers to the athlete's ability to generate force for take-off, transition, acceleration or lift in skill performance.
- Visual information used for spatial orientation, apparatus awareness, balance, timing, take-off, landing preparation and movement control refers to the gymnast's ability to use vision to judge distance, height, direction, rotation, apparatus location, landing area and movement timing. For gymnasts with visual impairment, MIC may be demonstrated where reduced visual information has a measurable and significant impact on gymnastics-specific activity, safe movement selection, approach accuracy, apparatus interaction or landing control.

For the pilot year, the practical meaning of MIC should be explained in simple language across all events. Athletes who do not meet MIC are not “less disabled”, “not disabled enough”, or less worthy. They are simply not eligible within the current sport-specific framework.

Safe execution of gymnastics skills is of paramount importance in Para gymnastics, and it is the responsibility of the coach to determine which skills are appropriate for each gymnast, taking into consideration the impairment and the individual gymnast’s ability to perform the skills. Classification must not create incentives for gymnasts to attempt skills that exceed their safe functional capacity. If the impairment significantly reduces the gymnast's ability to perform a skill safely, that gymnast should not include the skill in a routine. The Code of Points for PMAG and PWAG have been specially constructed to enable a wide choice of gymnastic elements to be performed and purposefully give gymnasts flexibility in the composition of their routines, enabling them to show their best.

9. Sport classes

The sport class structure below should be used without deviation in the Year 1 framework testing period.

Formal Year 1 sport class structure

Sport Classes are based on medical diagnosis and the additional assessment of functional impact that the impairment has on the sport specific requirements of gymnastics.

Upper Limb Impairment

- P-UL1 – Severe upper limb impairment: one upper limb absent, significantly shorter (limb difference) or non-functional; major limitation in weight-bearing and support.
- P-UL2 – Moderate upper limb impairment: partial hand or finger absence; reduced grip, support or control, but functional weight-bearing possible.

Lower Limb Impairment

- P-LL1 – Severe lower limb impairment: one lower limb absent, significantly shorter (limb difference) or non-functional; significant limitation in balance and propulsion; major impact on landings and stability.
- P-LL2 – Moderate lower limb impairment: unilateral amputation with prosthesis; reduced push-off, balance and dynamic control.

Visual Impairment

- P-VI1 – Blind: visual acuity in the best eye, with best possible optical correction, poorer than LogMAR 2.60.
- P-VI2 – Severe visual impairment: visual acuity in the best eye, with best possible optical correction, from LogMAR 1.50 to LogMAR 2.60 inclusive and/or visual field constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees.

For visual impairment classes, assessment must be based on the gymnast’s best eye with best possible optical correction, such as glasses or contact lenses, whether or not the gymnast intends to wear that correction in competition. These pilot-year limits will be reviewed after sufficient Para gymnastics evidence has been collected.

Explanatory guidance for Year 1

Diagnosis is the principal starting point for all classification in Paralympic sport. Following confirmed diagnosis, the sport class structure is designed to group athletes by functional impact. In the pilot year, the six class titles above should be treated as the agreed Year 1 structure for education, observation and testing. This class structure keeps the system understandable for Federations and allows practical learning during the first year.

Where event organisers choose to run mixed or open development formats rather than class-by-class medal events, the underlying class structure should still be recorded so that data can be gathered consistently across the 12-month review period.

If an athlete presents more than one impairment, classifier personnel should identify the impairment that most meaningfully affects gymnastics performance and record the reasoning clearly. During the pilot year, complex or borderline cases should be documented carefully so they can inform later review.

Development statement on Year 1 sport class definitions

The Year 1 sport class definitions are intentionally broad for the pilot-year testing period. This approach is designed to allow World Gymnastics to observe and include a wider range of gymnasts with upper limb impairment, lower limb impairment and visual impairment during the first year of structured testing. The purpose is to gather meaningful evidence about how different impairments affect gymnastics-specific activity, participation, safety, apparatus use and competitive grouping.

Following the pilot year, the data, observations and feedback collected through classification assessment, training and competition observation, and National Federation engagement will be analysed to inform the next stage of development. This evidence will support the future refinement of each sport class through more precise medical, functional and sport-specific definitions.

In the longer term, World Gymnastics will also develop impairment-specific Minimum Impairment Criteria for each eligible impairment group. This means that the MIC for all impairment types included in upper limb impairment, lower limb impairment and visual impairment will be defined separately, using appropriate clinical, medical and functional assessment methods, and may involve different testing protocols according to the impairment type being assessed.

10. Sport class status

For the pilot year, athlete status should explain how settled the classification decision is and whether follow-up is needed. The terms below clearly define each type of sport class status.

Status	Meaning for Year 1 use
Provisional	Initial classification used in the pilot year where further observation, documentation or competition testing may still be required.
Review	The athlete has been classified, but reassessment is required later because more information, growth, adaptation or further observation may affect the decision.
Final	No further review is expected in the current pilot context unless significant new information emerges.
CNC (Classification Not Completed)	The process could not be completed because documentation, conditions or observation were insufficient, or medical declaration with diagnosis not received.
Not Eligible	The athlete does not have an eligible impairment and/or does not meet MIC for Para gymnastics under the current pilot rules.

Whatever status is given, athletes must receive clear written communication explaining the outcome and any next steps.

11. Roles and responsibilities

A successful first year depends on clear roles. The following responsibilities should be understood by all parties.

World Gymnastics

- Publish and maintain the pilot-year framework and annexes;
- Coordinate education and communication for National Federations;
- Appoint or recognise pilot classification personnel and event procedures;
- Collect feedback and evidence to support the 12-month review.

National Federations

- Identify eligible athletes for pilot participation;
- Collect and submit required documents;
- Ensure athletes and support personnel understand that Year 1 is a development phase;
- Provide structured feedback after events.

Athletes and support personnel

- Provide honest and complete information;
- Participate respectfully in classification assessment and observation;
- Notify classification personnel of relevant changes, including prosthetic use where applicable;
- Respect the role of classification as a sport-specific, evidence-based process.

Classifier personnel

- Apply the framework consistently and without bias;
- Integrate medical, functional and sport-specific reasoning;
- Document decisions clearly and respectfully;
- Flag borderline cases, safety concerns and evidence gaps for future review.

12. Pilot-year classification process

The process below is designed to be simple enough for early use while remaining structured and aligned with the recognised classification pathway.

Step 1. Federation submission

The National Federation submits the application form, medical documents, identity details and any relevant prosthetic or assistive device information and video evidence of the gymnast performing on apparatus they will compete in.

Step 2. Eligibility review

Classifier personnel review the documents to confirm whether there is an eligible impairment within the pilot-year scope.

Step 3. MIC assessment

Classifier personnel assess whether the impairment has a measurable and significant impact on the Year 1 gymnastics performance determinants listed in this handbook.

Step 4. Physical and functional assessment

Assessment may include physical review, functional testing and task-based observation relevant to gymnastics and observation of gymnast video footage.

Step 5. Observation in training or competition

The athlete is observed in a gymnastics environment to verify whether the functional impact seen in assessment is consistent in practice.

Step 6. Sport class allocation and status

If criteria are met, a sport class and status are allocated and communicated in writing.

Step 7. Recording, feedback and review

The outcome and panel reasoning are recorded securely so that pilot-year learning can feed into later system refinement.

Pilot-year practical note

During the first year, events may also use open or developmental formats where athletes are observed even if final sport class confirmation is deferred. In such cases, the event must still record the athlete profile, the impairment group being considered, the provisional outcome, and what further evidence is needed.

13. Data protection, records and confidentiality

Medical and classification information is sensitive. It must be handled securely and only by authorised personnel. National Federations and event organisers should collect only the information needed for the classification purpose, store it securely, and limit access to those with a clear role in the process.

The pilot-year system should keep structured records of:

- The athlete's application and supporting documents;
- Panel notes and assessment records;
- Observation notes;
- The sport class outcome and status;
- Protests, appeals or follow-up actions;
- Any consent given for educational or research use of anonymised material.

Educational and research materials should be anonymised wherever possible. The annex forms in this handbook include simple wording for consent and confidentiality for us in the pilot year.

14. Education, feedback and review cycle

Education is essential for successful Year 1 implementation. World Gymnastics and National Federations should provide clear information to different audiences:

- National Federations need practical guidance on who may enter the system and what paperwork is needed.
- Gymnasts and families need simple explanations of what classification is, what it is not, and why some athletes may be ineligible even if they have an impairment.
- Coaches need guidance on safe element selection, expected documentation and the distinction between judging and classification.
- Judges need to understand how the classification framework interacts with the Code of Points without replacing it.
- Classifier personnel need structured observation tools, case discussions and calibration practice.
- Public Awareness / Media: Media and communication professionals need guidance on the purpose of classification, appropriate terminology and responsible communication about Para gymnastics.

At the end of the first 12 months, feedback and evidence should be reviewed systematically. That review should examine participation patterns, the practical use of the six pilot sport classes, the clarity of the MIC criteria, operational challenges at events, and any recurring safety or borderline eligibility issues.

15. Glossary

Term	Definition
Appeal	A request for review of whether the classification process was applied correctly. It concerns procedure rather than simply disagreeing with professional judgement. (An appeal challenges the process.)
Athlete Support Personnel	Any coach, parent, team official, medical practitioner or other support person assisting the athlete.
CNC	Classification Not Completed. Used when the classification process cannot be finalised because essential information or conditions are insufficient.
Classification	The sport-specific process used to determine whether an athlete is eligible for Para sport and, if so, how the athlete should be grouped for competition.
Eligible Impairment	An impairment type recognised within the sport's classification rules.
Final Status	A Year 1 status indicating that no further review is expected within the pilot context unless significant new information emerges.
Functional Impact	The effect of an impairment on the activities fundamental to gymnastics performance.
MIC	Minimum Impairment Criteria. The threshold at which an impairment has a measurable and significant effect on the key performance determinants of artistic gymnastics.
Not Eligible	An outcome showing that the athlete does not have an eligible impairment and/or does not meet MIC for Para gymnastics under the current pilot rules.
Pilot Year	The first 12 months of structured testing, education and feedback collection for the Para gymnastics classification system. (October 2026 – October 2027)
Prosthetic / Assistive Device Declaration	A record showing whether an athlete intends to compete with or without a prosthetic or other assistive device, and any safety considerations related to that choice.
Protest	A formal request for review of a sport class allocation or status where there is a reasonable basis and the required procedures are followed. (A protest challenges the classification outcome.)
Provisional Status	An initial pilot-year status used when further observation or information may still be needed.
Review Status	A status used where reassessment is required later because the impact of the impairment may change or further evidence is needed.
Sport Class	A grouping category based on the functional impact of the athlete's eligible impairment.
Sport Class Status	A label explaining whether the athlete's class is settled, subject to review, or not completed.
UHC	Underlying Health Condition. The verified health condition recognised by World Health Organisation (WHO) ICD-10 that causes the impairment presented for classification.
WHO ICD-10	The World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision. This is an internationally recognised system used to record and describe health conditions and diagnoses. In Para gymnastics classification, ICD-10 terminology may help verify the athlete's Underlying Health Condition, but diagnosis alone does not determine sport class or eligibility; the impairment must also meet the sport-specific eligibility and Minimum Impairment Criteria.

ANNEXES

The annexes below are drafted as pilot-year operational resources. They are designed to be compatible with the simplified Year 1 framework and to align as closely as possible with the 2025 IPC Classification Code and IPC Model Classification Rules, while remaining practical for World Gymnastics development use.

Annex Completion Summary

Annex	Title	Primary responsibility	Purpose / when used
A	Athlete Classification Application Form	National Federation	Initial athlete submission and entry into the classification pathway. If Visual impairment is selected, Annex C must also be completed and submitted.
B	Medical Diagnostics Form Cover Sheet	National Federation / athlete supported by medical evidence	Cover sheet for medical documents used to verify the Underlying Health Condition and impairment profile.
C	Vision Impairment Medical Diagnostic Annex	Registered ophthalmologist / National Federation / athlete	Completed only when Visual impairment is selected in Annex A. Records best-corrected visual acuity, visual field, diagnosis and supporting ophthalmology evidence.
D	Athlete Declaration, Consent and Confidentiality Form	Athlete / parent or guardian if required / National Federation representative	Confirms consent, accuracy of information and understanding of confidentiality requirements.
E	Classification Assessment Form	Classification Team	Records document review, MIC judgement, sport class allocation, status and panel reasoning.
F	Observation in Training / Competition Form	Classifier personnel	Used when observation supports or verifies the classification decision.
G	Classification Outcome Certificate	Classification Team	Confirms sport class, status, outcome type, reasoning summary and review requirements.
H	Protest Form	National Federation / authorised party	Used to submit a formal protest against a sport class allocation or sport class status.
I	Appeal Request Form	National Federation / authorised party	Used where the concern relates to whether rules, authority or procedure were applied correctly.
J	Prosthetic / Assistive Device Declaration	Athlete / coach / National Federation / Classification Team	Completed where an athlete may compete with a prosthetic or assistive device.
K	Event Classification Operations Checklist	Classification Team / event classification organisers	Supports planning, document control, scheduling, outcome recording and event learning.
L	National Federation Submission Checklist	National Federation	Final quality check before submitting an athlete for classification.

Classification Document Submission Details and Deadline for National Federations

National Federations must submit all athlete classification documentation by the definitive entry deadline date specified for each competition. This deadline applies to the athlete classification forms, medical evidence, supplementary evidence and any required video files.

Completed documents and supporting files must be submitted to the designated World Gymnastics classification contact point below:

Submission email or upload URL: [Insert submission email address or secure upload URL here]

(This will be WG's **Nextcloud Upload Platform** for Year 1 testing)

Video Submission Guidance

National Federations must submit video evidence from each apparatus the gymnast intends to compete on. The purpose of the video submission is to support functional observation and help the Classification Team understand how the gymnast's impairment affects gymnastics-specific activity.

- The footage should be recent and of sufficient quality for functional observation.
- The gymnast's whole body and the relevant apparatus should remain visible throughout the performance.
- Where possible, the routine or representative sequence should be recorded continuously without editing.
- If the functional impact is not sufficiently visible, the Classification Team may request an additional camera angle or further video evidence.
- Where a prosthetic or assistive device will be used in competition, the submitted video should show the gymnast performing with the same declared competition configuration.

Secure submission method: [Insert secure upload method, email address or upload URL here]

(This will be WG's **Nextcloud Upload Platform** for Year 1 testing)

Accepted file formats or links: Videos should preferably be submitted in MP4 (.mp4) format. MOV (.mov) files may also be accepted where recorded on Apple devices. Files should be playable using standard software without requiring specialist codecs or additional downloads. Where file size prevents direct upload, National Federations may submit a secure share link, provided access is granted to authorised classification personnel and remains available until the classification process is complete.

File naming convention: [AthleteSurname_AthleteFirstName_NF_Apparatus_Date]

Submission deadline: Videos must be submitted by the definitive entry deadline date specified for each competition, unless a later deadline is expressly stated in the competition information.

Classification Documentation Requirements for Subsequent Competitions

All classification documentation must be submitted for a gymnast's first competition during the pilot year. This includes the athlete classification application form, medical evidence, consent documentation, supplementary evidence, video evidence from each apparatus the gymnast intends to compete on, and any prosthetic or assistive device declaration where relevant.

For subsequent competitions in the same pilot year, the requirement to re-submit classification documentation will depend on the sport class status given to the gymnast at their first competition and whether any relevant information has changed. Changes include change of prosthetic and/or medical or functional changes.

- **Final status:** If a gymnast receives Final status at their first competition, they do not need to re-submit classification documents, video evidence or supplementary evidence for later competitions in the same pilot year, provided there has been no relevant change in medical information, impairment presentation, apparatus participation, or prosthetic / assistive device configuration.
- **Provisional status:** If a gymnast receives Provisional status, full classification documentation must be submitted again for the gymnast's next competition entry so the Classification Team can review the additional evidence and complete further assessment or observation.
- **Review status:** If a gymnast receives Review status, the Classification Team will state the timescale or conditions for the next review. If that review is due before or at the gymnast's next competition, full classification documentation must be submitted again for that competition entry.
- **CNC status:** If a gymnast receives CNC status, full classification documentation must be submitted again for the gymnast's next competition entry because the classification process was not completed.

National Federations must notify World Gymnastics if there is any relevant change after the gymnast's first classification, including a change in diagnosis, impairment presentation, competition apparatus, medical evidence, or declared prosthetic / assistive device configuration. In these circumstances, additional documentation or reassessment may be required even where the gymnast previously received Final status.

Annex A. Athlete Classification Application Form

Usage instructions: This form should be completed by the gymnast, parent or guardian where required, and coach, then checked and approved by the National Federation before the athlete enters the pilot-year classification pathway. It should include the athlete's identity details, passport information, official competition ID where applicable, discipline, proposed impairment group, supporting documents and Federation contact information. Submit this form together with Annex B, Annex D, video evidence and Annex J if a prosthetic or assistive device is relevant. If Visual impairment is selected as the proposed eligible impairment group, Annex C must also be completed and submitted.

Field	**Information to provide**
Gymnast full name	
Date of birth / athlete ID	
Passport number	
Gender as stated in passport	
Official Paralympic competition ID, if applicable	
Nationality	
Discipline	PWAG / PMAG / other relevant pilot format
Competition level	National / invitational / international pilot activity
National Federation	
Contact email within National Federation	
Coach / team contact	
Underlying Health Condition / diagnosis	
ICD-10 code	
Proposed eligible impairment group	Upper limb / Lower limb / Visual impairment
Competing with prosthetic or assistive device?	Yes / No – if yes, complete Annex J
Supporting documents attached	Medical documents / passport or ID / videos / other

National Federation approval: We confirm that the submitted information has been checked, that the gymnast, parent or guardian where required, and coach have provided the basic information requested, and that this application is APPROVED for submission to World Gymnastics classification review.

National Federation representative name	
Role / position	
Signature	_____
Date	

Annex B. Medical Diagnostics Form Cover Sheet

Usage instructions: This cover sheet should be completed by the National Federation or athlete and placed at the front of the medical evidence pack. It should include the gymnast's name and date of birth / athlete ID and should summarise the athlete's diagnosis using ICD-10 terminology, impairment profile and relevant clinical information so the Classification Team can verify the Underlying Health Condition and decide whether further evidence is required.

Field	**Information to provide**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Diagnosing clinician name	
Clinician profession	
Condition / diagnosis, including ICD-10 code	
Date of diagnosis	
Relevant anatomical / visual / functional summary	
Is the condition stable, progressive or fluctuating?	
Upper limb involvement	Yes / No / N/A
Lower limb involvement	Yes / No / N/A
Visual involvement	Yes / No / N/A
Additional notes for classification panel	

Recommended attachments may include clinic letters, imaging summaries, operative summaries, ophthalmology information for visual impairment, prosthetic notes, or other evidence that helps verify the Underlying Health Condition and eligible impairment profile.

Annex C. Vision Impairment Medical Diagnostic Form

Usage instructions: This annex must be completed and submitted when Visual impairment is selected as the proposed eligible impairment group in Annex A. It should be completed by a registered ophthalmologist, or by another appropriately qualified eye specialist where permitted by the National Federation, and submitted with the medical evidence pack. The purpose of this annex is to record the gymnast's diagnosis, best-corrected visual acuity, visual field and relevant ophthalmology evidence so that the Classification Team can consider provisional eligibility for the Para gymnastics pilot year.

Field	Information to provide
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Diagnosis causing visual impairment	
Age or date of onset	
Condition stable, progressive or fluctuating?	
Best eye with best possible correction	Right / Left
Best-corrected visual acuity, recorded as LogMAR	Right eye / Left eye / Best eye
Type of correction used for testing	Glasses / contact lenses / other / none
Visual field radius in degrees	Right eye / Left eye / Best eye
Testing methods used	LogMAR / ETDRS / Snellen if no other test available / Goldmann / Humphrey / Octopus / other
Relevant treatments, medications, ocular procedures or eye prosthesis	

Required attachments: attach recent ophthalmology evidence supporting the diagnosis and current visual function. Where visual field restriction is relied upon, a visual field test must be attached. Acuity measurements should be taken with best possible correction, irrespective of whether the gymnast wears that correction in competition.

Para gymnastics visual impairment class for pilot year	Criteria based on best eye with best correction
P-VI1 Blind	Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60.
P-VI2 Severe visual impairment	Visual acuity from LogMAR 1.50 to LogMAR 2.60 inclusive and/or visual field constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees.
Not eligible under the proposed pilot visual impairment criteria	Visual function does not meet the P-VI1 or P-VI2 thresholds, or the evidence is insufficient to verify eligibility.

Annex D. Athlete Declaration, Consent and Confidentiality Form

Usage instructions: This form must be completed and signed by the athlete, and by a parent or guardian where required, before any classification assessment takes place. It should include the gymnast's name and date of birth / athlete ID. It confirms that the athlete understands the pilot-year classification process, consents to the use of medical and classification information for classification purposes, and agrees to the confidentiality requirements.

- I understand that classification is a sport-specific process and not a judgement of my effort, worth or identity.
- I understand that I may be found not eligible if I do not have an eligible impairment and/or do not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para gymnastics competitions in this pilot year.
- I consent to my medical and classification information being reviewed by authorised classification personnel for the purpose of World Gymnastics pilot-year classification.
- I understand that anonymised information may be used for education, research and system-development purposes if this is clearly indicated and permitted under applicable data protection requirements.

Field	**Entry**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Athlete signature	
Parent / guardian signature (if gymnast is under 18 years old)	
Date	
National Federation representative	

Annex E. Classification Assessment Form

Usage instructions: This form is completed by the Classification Team during document review, physical assessment, functional assessment and any related observation. It should begin with the gymnast's name and date of birth / athlete ID, record the Underlying Health Condition / diagnosis using ICD-10 terminology and document the evidence considered, MIC judgement, sport class allocation, sport class status, panel reasoning and any further actions required.

Section	**Record**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Date and location of assessment	
Panel members	
Underlying Health Condition / diagnosis verified, including ICD-10	Yes / No / Further evidence needed
Eligible impairment group	Upper limb / Lower limb / Visual / Not eligible
MIC met	Yes / No / Borderline / Insufficient information
Assessment components used	Document review / Physical assessment / Functional assessment / Training observation / Competition observation
Key findings	
Sport class allocated	P-UL1 / P-UL2 / P-LL1 / P-LL2 / P-VI1 / P-VI2 / Not eligible / CNC
Sport class status	Provisional / Review / Final / CNC
Panel reasoning summary	
Further action required	

MIC reminder for panel use: the athlete must have a measurable and significant impact on at least one of the formal Year 1 determinants listed in Section 8 of this handbook.

Annex F. Observation in Training / Competition Form

Usage instructions: This form is used by classifier personnel when observation in training, warm-up or competition is needed to support or verify the classification decision. It should include the gymnast's name and date of birth / athlete ID. When annexes are compiled as an athlete-specific classification file, this observation form should be placed at the front of any athlete-specific classifier notes. Notes should focus on how the impairment affects gymnastics-specific activities, including weight-bearing, grip, handstand support, push-off, take-off, visual orientation, apparatus awareness, timing, landing preparation, safety and consistency across attempts.

Gymnast full name	
Date of birth / athlete ID	

Observation domain	**Notes**
Weight-bearing through upper / lower limbs & grip control	
Support in handstands and inverted positions	
Push-off and take-off	
Visual information used for spatial orientation, apparatus awareness, balance, timing, take-off, landing preparation and movement control	
Balance and postural control	
Safety observations	
Apparatus used	
Consistency across attempts	
Observed compensatory strategies	
Any safety concerns	
Does observation support the provisional MIC judgement?	
Additional evidence required	

Annex G. Classification Outcome Certificate

Usage instructions: This certificate should be completed by the Classification Team after the classification decision has been made. It should be issued to the athlete and National Federation to confirm the sport class, sport class status, outcome type, reasoning summary and any review requirements or follow-up actions.

Field	**Entry**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Event / location	
Date	
Sport class	
Sport class status	
Outcome type	Eligible / Not eligible / CNC
Reasoning summary	
Review requirements	
Panel signatures	

Suggested athlete-facing wording: Your outcome has been determined using the World Gymnastics pilot-year Para gymnastics framework. This is part of the first 12 months of testing and education and may be reviewed as the sport develops.

Annex H. Protest Form

Usage instructions: This form should be used by a National Federation or authorised party when submitting a formal protest against a sport class allocation or sport class status under the applicable event procedure. The protest must identify the decision being challenged, the grounds for protest, any new or relevant supporting information, and the outcome requested.

Field	**Entry**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Event	
Person / Federation submitting protest	
Date and time submitted	
Decision being protested	
Grounds for protest	New material information / relevant information unavailable at time of assessment / significant evidence not considered
Documents attached	
Requested outcome	
Signature	

A protest is not disagreement with professional judgement alone. It is a procedural safeguard that must be grounded in relevant information and follow the event procedure.

Annex I. Appeal Request Form

Usage instructions: This form should be used by a National Federation or authorised party where the concern relates to whether the classification rules, authority or procedure were applied correctly. It should describe the procedural issue clearly and include any supporting information. It should not be used simply because a party disagrees with the professional judgement of the Classification Team.

Field	**Entry**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Event	
Appellant	
Date	
Process being appealed	
Alleged procedural issue	
Supporting description	
Documents attached	
Signature	

An appeal concerns process and authority. It does not simply replace the classifier panel's judgement with another opinion.

Annex J. Prosthetic / Assistive Device Declaration

Usage instructions: This declaration should be completed when an athlete may compete with a prosthetic or assistive device, or where their decision to compete with or without one needs to be recorded. The athlete, coach or National Federation should provide device details, apparatus affected, safety considerations and any limitations of use. The Classification Team should review the information and record whether observation is required.

Field	**Entry**
Gymnast full name and date of birth / athlete ID	
Device type	
Prosthetic to be used in competition?	Yes / No / Event-specific
Apparatus affected	
Any known safety considerations	
Any limitations or conditions of use	
Coach / athlete explanation	
Panel observation required?	Yes / No
Decision / comments	

Important Rule: Gymnasts MUST perform in competition on each apparatus with the same prosthetic / assistive device configuration as is stated in their Prosthetic / Assistive Device Declaration Form; no deviation will be permitted.

If a prosthetic or assistive device breaks or becomes unsafe for use after the definitive entry deadline and the gymnast cannot safely use the prosthetic device stated in their Prosthetic / Assistive Device Declaration Form, their National Federation must contact World Gymnastics immediately to notify them of the change in circumstances. The information provided by the National Federation MUST include clear evidence in the form of photo, video or technical information which clearly indicates the reason for not using the stated device. The email to submit post entry deadline prosthetic / assistive device changes is: paragymnastics@worldgymnastics.sport

If a prosthetic or assistive device breaks at the event before the competition, the National Federation MUST contact the Classification Team present at the competition at the earliest possible opportunity. In this situation any decision regarding possible temporary reclassification will be at the discretion of the Classification Team. Any decision made at this time will prioritise gymnast safety.

Annex K. Event Classification Operations Checklist

Usage instructions: This checklist may be used as a general event guide or as an athlete-specific checklist. If used for an individual gymnast, complete the gymnast name and date of birth / athlete ID fields before use. It should be used by the Classification Team and event classification organisers before, during and after an event to support planning, document control, athlete scheduling, panel preparation, outcome recording, protest and appeal information, and secure transfer of learning points into the World Gymnastics review process.

Gymnast full name, if athlete-specific	
Date of birth / athlete ID, if athlete-specific	

✓	**Checklist item**
☐	Confirm which athletes require classification or observation.
☐	Collect application forms, medical documents, consent forms and gymnast video evidence in advance.
☐	Confirm secure document handling and restricted access to sensitive information.
☐	Confirm panel personnel and manage conflicts of interest.
☐	Schedule athlete appointments and any observation sessions.
☐	Prepare athlete briefing explaining the pilot-year purpose and process.
☐	Record class outcomes and statuses in writing.
☐	Provide athletes with protest / appeal information if relevant.
☐	Store event records securely and transfer learning points to the World Gymnastics review process.

Annex L. National Federation Submission Checklist

Usage instructions: This checklist may be used as a general National Federation submission guide or as an athlete-specific checklist. If used for an individual gymnast, complete the gymnast name and date of birth / athlete ID fields before use. It should be completed by the National Federation before submitting an athlete for classification and used as a final quality check to ensure the application form, medical evidence, consent form, video evidence, prosthetic or assistive device declaration if relevant, Federation contact details and athlete briefing have all been completed.

Gymnast full name, if athlete-specific	
Date of birth / athlete ID, if athlete-specific	

✓	**Checklist item**
☐	Athlete classification application form completed
☐	Identity details checked
☐	Medical diagnostics cover sheet completed
☐	Supporting medical evidence attached
☐	Athlete declaration / consent signed
☐	Any prosthetic / assistive device declaration attached if relevant
☐	Videos or additional supporting material attached (videos must be sent from each apparatus the gymnast will compete in)
☐	Federation contact person identified
☐	Athlete and coach briefed that the first 12 months are a testing and development phase

16. End-to-End Classification User Flowchart

This simplified flowchart shows the main steps for National Federations, gymnasts, coaches, classifiers and event organisers before, during and after a Para gymnastics competition. It is intended as a quick reference guide and does not replace the full handbook or annex requirements.

1. BEFORE THE COMPETITION — ENTRY AND DOCUMENT PREPARATION		
National Federation identifies gymnast Confirm the gymnast may fit the pilot-year eligible impairment groups and intends to enter a Para gymnastics competition.	→	**Complete entry documents** Complete Annex A, Annex B, Annex D, video evidence, and Annex J if a prosthetic or assistive device is relevant. If Visual impairment is selected, also complete Annex C.
Submit by deadline Submit all classification documents, medical evidence and videos by the definitive entry deadline using the secure submission process.	→	**Classification Team reviews documents** Review the Underlying Health Condition, eligible impairment group, medical evidence, video evidence and any prosthetic or vision-specific information.
2. AT THE COMPETITION — CLASSIFICATION, OBSERVATION AND COMPETITION PARTICIPATION		
Athlete briefing and checks The gymnast and support personnel are briefed on the pilot-year process. Identity, documents and declared competition configuration are checked.	→	**Classification assessment** The Classification Team completes document review, physical and functional assessment where required, MIC assessment, and sport-specific reasoning.
Training or competition observation Where needed, the gymnast is observed in warm-up, training and/or competition to verify how the impairment affects gymnastics-specific activities**.**	→	**Sport class and status decision*** The Classification Team records the provisional outcome, sport class, sport class status, reasoning, and any review or further evidence requirements. **The sport class and status allocated by the Classification Team apply for the competition unless changed through the applicable protest procedure. A National Federation may submit a protest only through the formal event process and must provide valid grounds; disagreement with professional judgement alone is not sufficient.*
3. AFTER THE COMPETITION — OUTCOME, RECORDS AND NEXT STEPS		
Outcome communicated The gymnast and National Federation receive clear written communication of the classification outcome and any next steps.	→	**Classification outcome certificate issued** Annex G is completed to confirm sport class, sport class status, outcome type, reasoning summary and review requirements.
Records stored securely World Gymnastics and authorised classification personnel store classification documents, outcome records, observation notes and learning points securely.	→	**Next competition or review pathway** Final status may reduce re-submission requirements if nothing changes. Provisional, Review or CNC status may require further evidence, reassessment or full documentation at the next competition.

Key message for stakeholders: classification is not a single form or one-off event. It is an end-to-end pathway that begins with correct documentation before entry, continues through assessment and observation at competition, and finishes with written outcomes, secure records and clear next steps for future participation.

17. Reference Acknowledgements

This handbook was prepared from Para gymnastics development materials and external Para sport classification references, including:

- World Gymnastics Classification Working Group & World Gymnastics Para gymnastics Working Group reference materials created by Marja Räisänen: development draft framework for Para Artistic Gymnastics; Classification version 1.0 (including the Year 1 MIC and sport class wording); Classifier checklists, cases and annex toolkit; Comparative analysis of Para climbing and Para Artistic Gymnastics
- World Gymnastics Para gymnastics Working Group Members' presentation and developmental materials
- IFSC Para Climbing Classification Rules and IFSC published resource structure;
- 2025 IPC Classification Code and 2025 IPC Model Classification Rules.
- Paralympics New Zealand, medical diagnostic form for athletes with visual impairment.