



## International Canicross Federation

### CANICROSS : RULES FOR PARASPORT

The rules are following the guidelines of the international paralympic comitee.

Challenging the interests of Para sport is the threat of one-sided and predictable competition, in which the least impaired athlete always wins.

Classification is the cornerstone of the Paralympic Movement, it determines which athletes are eligible to compete in a sport and how athletes are grouped together for competition. In Para sports, athletes are grouped by the degree of activity limitation resulting from the impairment. This, to a certain extent, is similar to grouping athletes by age, gender or weight.

Classification aims to minimise the impact of the impairment on athletes' performance so that the sporting excellence determines which athlete or team is ultimately victorious. Ensuring that athletes are classified prior to competing is crucial to safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the competition.

It is important to underline that the competitive structure provided by classification systems is not only key for elite sport but also necessary for promoting grassroots participation in Para sports for people with an impairment.

#### 1/ ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Classification is carried out through a process called "Athlete Status.

Athlete Evaluation answers three fundamental questions:

1. Does the athlete have an Eligible Impairment for this sport?
2. Does the athlete's Eligible Impairment meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria of the sport?
3. Which Sport Class should the athlete be allocated in based on the extent to which the athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport?



## First Step : determining if an athlete has an Eligible Impairment

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Any athlete wishing to participate in Para sport competition must have an Underlying Health Condition that leads to a permanent Eligible Impairment.

The ICF offers sporting opportunities for athletes with an impairment belonging to one of three Eligible Impairment types.

IMPAIRMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	NAME OF CATEGORY
Motor Disability	pathology or disability having an impact on the motor system: amputation, prosthesis, disabling illness	PSM
Sensory Disability	pathology or disability having an impact on the sensory system: visual or hearing impairment	PSS
Mental handicap or intellectual deficiency	intellectual disability, autistic disorder, Down syndrome, mental illness	PSI

### ATHLETE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Is an athlete that meets all of the following three elements :

- intellectual disability originated before the age of 22, characterised by
- significant limitation in intellectual functioning . it is defined as a Full scale IQ score of 75 or lower
- and significant limitation in adaptive behaviour : at least 2 standard deviations must be evident (conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills)

### ATHLETE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND SIGNIFICANT IMPAIRMENT

Is an athlete with a formal diagnosis of Trisomy 21 or Translocation Down Syndrome. The athlete must submit evidence that he does not have symptomatic Atlantoaxial Instability.



## ATHLETE WITH AUTISM

Is an athlete who has a formal diagnosis of Autism or ASD by qualified experts

## ATHLETE WITH MOTOR OR SENSORIAL IMPAIRMENT

The athlete must show the impact of his disability on the practice of canicross

### **Second Step** : Determining if the athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport

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Classification rules describe how severe an Eligible Impairment must be for an athlete to be considered eligible to compete. These criteria are referred to as Minimum Impairment Criteria.

Minimum Impairment Criteria must ensure that an athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which the athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

If an athlete is not eligible to compete in a sport, this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. It is a sport ruling.

### **Third Step** : Deciding an athlete's sports class

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After an athlete has been designated as eligible , the classification panel will assess which Sport Class the athlete will compete in.

A Sport Class groups athletes with a similar activity limitation together for competition, so that they can compete equitably. It also means that a Sport Class does not necessarily comprise athletes with the same Eligible Impairment. If different impairments cause similar activity limitation, athletes with these impairments are allowed to compete together.

#### Determining in which Sport Class

The assessment of whether or not an athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport, the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status is undertaken by a classification panel. Classification panels include a minimum of two classifiers. Classifiers are trained experts – physicians, physiotherapists, coaches, sport scientists, psychologists, ophthalmologist, and have a complimentary knowledge about impairments and their impact on the respective sports. Classifier's qualifications and required competencies are determined by ICF



## 2/ PROCEDURE

Each federation must submit to the parasport committee within the deadline for inscription, the following documents in English or in French :

- the application form
- a copy of the athlete's passport
- Functional Assessment Screening tool, Psychological reports or diagnosis of Trisomy/translocation down syndrome
- Supporting medical information

## 3/ PARASPORT COMMITTEE

It will be formed by 5 members, which will validate the applications and admit the athlete to the competition.

## 4/ CATEGORIES

7-10 Years old	10-12 Years old	13-15 Years old	16-18 Years old	19 Years or older
School PSM	Young PSM	Cadet PSM	Junior PSM	Senior PSM
School PSS	Young PSS	Cadet PSS	Junior PSS	Senior PSS
School PSI	Young PSI	Cadet PSI	Junior PSI	Senior PSI

## 5/ COMPETITION

During the competition they can be accompanied by a guide, who has the rule to accompany the athlete.

The courses are identical for competitors in the same age category; there is no specific parasport course. Each competitor registers with full knowledge of the facts and must complete the course reconnaissance to ensure their ability to race.

Within Icf, a parathlete will be eligible only for canicross competition.

