

## CLASSIFICATION

### ELIGIBLE & NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT TYPES

(Paralympic discipline only)

#### Information Document

This document provided information on eligible and non-eligible impairments, in relation to playing the Paralympic discipline of wheelchair rugby.

The document includes:

- eligible impairment types
- non-eligible impairment types

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) define ten eligible impairment types for parasport. World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) includes six physical impairment types as eligible for wheelchair rugby:

- impaired muscle power
- limb deficiency
- impaired passive range of movement
- hypertonia
- ataxia
- athetosis

(IPC Classification Code, 2015; WWR Classification Rules, 2021)

GBWR follow [WWR's rules & regulations on classification](#). To progress through classification the athlete must have a verifiable and permanent impairment due to an underlying health condition that leads to an eligible impairment according to the IPC Athlete Classification Code and the WWR Classification Rules. The athlete's sport class is specific to the impact of impairment on the fundamental activities of wheelchair rugby.

## ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT TYPES

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Underlying Health Conditions
<p><b>Impaired Muscle Power</b></p> <p>Athletes with impaired muscle power have a health condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete).</li> <li>• Muscular dystrophy.</li> <li>• Post-polio syndrome.</li> <li>• Spina bifida.</li> </ul> <p>An athlete with paraparesis or paraplegia may meet minimum impairment criteria if another underlying health condition results in sufficient motor power impairment in the arm, such as a brachial plexus injury.</p>
<p><b>Limb Deficiency</b></p> <p>Athletes with limb deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints that was present at birth, or as a consequence of trauma.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatic amputation.</li> <li>• Illness (such as amputation due to bone cancer).</li> <li>• Congenital limb deficiency (such as dysmelia).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hypertonia</b></p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy.</li> <li>• Traumatic brain injury.</li> <li>• Stroke.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ataxia</b></p> <p>Athletes with ataxia have un-coordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy.</li> <li>• Traumatic brain injury.</li> <li>• Stroke.</li> <li>• Multiple sclerosis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Athetosis</b></p> <p>Athletes with athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy.</li> <li>• Traumatic brain injury.</li> <li>• Stroke.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b></p> <p>Athletes with impaired passive range of movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthrogyposis</li> <li>• Contractures resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</li> </ul> <p>Within wheelchair rugby, impairment measures to set minimum impairment criteria for all its eligible impairments are under development. Currently, athletes with impairment in passive range of movement may be eligible, if the athlete has another eligible impairment that meets the minimum impairment criteria.</p>

## NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT TYPES

Examples of non-eligible impairments for athletes in all parasport, including wheelchair rugby include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain
- Hearing impairment
- Low muscle tone
- Hypermobility of joints
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint
- Impaired muscle endurance
- Impaired motor reflex functions
- Impaired cardiovascular functions
- Impaired respiratory functions
- Impairment metabolic functions
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes, and motor perseveration

A number of health conditions do not lead to an eligible impairment and are not underlying health conditions for all athletes in parasport. An athlete who has a health condition (including, but not limited to, one of the health conditions listed above), but who does not have an underlying health condition will not be eligible to compete in parasport, including wheelchair rugby.

Health conditions that primarily cause pain, fatigue, joint hyper mobility or hypotonia, or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, do not lead to an eligible impairment. Examples of health conditions in these categories are:

### **Pain**

- myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome
- fibromyalgia
- complex regional pain syndrome

### **Fatigue**

- chronic fatigue syndrome

### **Joint hypermobility or hypotonia**

- benign joint mobility syndrome
- ehlers-danlos syndrome

### **Primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature**

- conversion disorders
- post-traumatic stress disorder