

CLASSIFICATION

TEMPORARY CLASSIFICATION STATUS

Information Document

This document outlines GBWR's temporary classification status, explaining how it is granted, who can play with this status, and for how long.

All information in this document regarding temporary classification is referring to athletes playing in the Paralympic discipline of wheelchair rugby. All information regarding classification in other disciplines can be found on GBWR's website.

A temporary classification (TC) is a classification status given by GBWR when an athlete has been deemed as potentially classifiable through the pre-screening process but is yet to be seen face-to-face by the classifiers to confirm if they are eligible for a classification. Once granted a TC status, athletes can play in GBWR events in a class given by a knowledgeable member of their club (head/lead coach). The temporary classification system is in place to allow new athletes the opportunity to play before being seen by a classifier.

It is made clear to all athletes granted TC status that:

1. This decision of receiving a temporary classification is based on information provided in the documentation. Therefore, there is a possibility that when seen face-to-face athletes may be deemed unclassifiable or not eligible, in which case they would not be permitted to partake in any further Paralympic discipline events.
2. The TC that they are currently playing with is given by their club coach/representative, therefore, once the player has been seen by a classification panel, their original TC is replaced by the outcome of their classification appointment. This means that following a classification appointment, players may go up or down in class.

Process:

All athletes who do not have a current classification need to apply for classification through GBWR's classification request form. A panel of classifiers review the documentation and make a decision (classifiable or not eligible/classifiable) based on the athletes' information provided.

All athletes deemed classifiable are then eligible to play under a TC. GBWR do not provide athletes with a temporary class. A club coach or experienced club member provides the athlete with an appropriate class (0.5 – 4.0) to play in.

Athletes who are added to the roster for any GBWR event, need to display their TC and state that this is a temporary class.

Playing with a Temporary Classification:

Adding a temporary classification player to a team sheet

Athletes who have had a decision of classifiable can be added to the team sheet with '(TC)' beside their name to signify that they have a temporary classification.

Athletes who are waiting on a decision can be added to the team sheet only if they have submitted all of their necessary information and documentation prior to the team sheet entry deadline for the respective event. Athletes will still have to wait for a decision before they are permitted to play.

An athlete who has not submitted all necessary documentation and information before the team sheet deadline cannot be added to the team sheet for that specific event. Irrespective of a classification decision, only athletes who are added to a team sheet before the deadline of an event will be permitted to play.

Premiership:

No athletes with a TC are permitted to play in the Premiership league. If an athlete with a TC is wishing to play in the Premiership, they will need to undergo a full classification prior to playing at an event.

Division One:

Athletes who are playing in GBWR's Division One will be granted to play under a TC but will be required to gain a confirmed classification within 12 months of the TC being granted. Providing GBWR gives adequate opportunities to be classified.

GBWR will arrange face-to-face classifications at selected events, to provide enough opportunity to gain a classification. Failure to attend any of the offered opportunities within the 12-month period will result in an athlete no longer being granted TC status, and therefore no longer being able to participate in the Division One or Premiership leagues until they have gained a confirmed classification.

Division Two, Three and development leagues:

Athletes who are playing in GBWR's Division Two, Division Three and/or development leagues can play under a TC indefinitely. If an athlete or club moves into Division One, they will then start their 12-month grace period in which they need to ensure they are seen by the classification panel.

When an opportunity is available, classification slots will be offered to players within Division 2 & 3, but this may not be available within the original 12 month window.

Concerns:

If a club thinks an athlete on a temporary classification from an opposing team, is playing in an inappropriate class, they can express their concern to one of GBWR's event coordinators. GBWR will then make note of the concern before speaking with both teams, and where necessary the classification panel and/or GB elite representatives. They will then make a decision whether it is deemed the athlete

may be playing in an inappropriate class. Following these discussions, GBWR will either allow participation in the same class or ask the club to adjust the TC to allow the athlete to continue to play.

No change in class will take place during the event in which the concern is presented. The athlete will continue within the same class for the rest of that event. GBWR will take the time between events to do all necessary discussions and any changes to class will be made prior to the athlete's next event.

Please be aware that TC's are granted by club representatives and not qualified classifiers so some allowance and leniency need to be made with regards to players in appropriate classes.