

ADDENDUM 3

PARA POLE

The rules below are to serve as an addendum to the IPSF Code of Points and the National Rules, and apply to the Para Pole division. These rules and amendments are to be read alongside the IPSF Code of Points and the National rules (and Addendum 2 when applicable to WPSC).

Challenging the interests of para-sport is the threat of one sided and predictable competition, in which the least impaired athlete always wins. To prevent this, para-athletes are placed in categories for competition based on their impairment, these are called sport classes. The IPC classification system determines which athletes are eligible to compete in a sport and how athletes are grouped together for competition. This, to a certain extent, is similar to grouping athletes by age, gender or weight.

In para-sport, athletes are grouped by the degree of activity limitation resulting from the impairment. Different sports require athletes to perform different activities. As sports require different activities, the impact of the impairment on each sport also differs (sourced from Classification Model Rules for Para Sports, January 2017- IPC International Paralympics Comité, available at www.paralympic.org/classification). Therefore, for classification to minimise the impact of impairment on pole sport performance, classification is now pole sport specific.

In Pole Sports the IPSF have selected the following eligible conditions to be part of Para Pole with further classifications and rule modifications:

1. Impaired muscle power:
 - a. Group one: PPMP1 – Able to walk
 - b. Group two: PPMP2 – Use of wheelchair
2. Limb deficiency:
 - a. Group one: PPLD1 -Absence of one arm, amputation or congenital limb deficiency above the elbow
 - b. Group two: PPLD2 - Absence of one leg, amputation or congenital limb deficiency above the knee
 - c. Group three: PPD3 -Absence of one arm, amputation or congenital limb deficiency below the elbow
 - d. Group four: PPD4 - Absence of one leg, amputation or congenital limb deficiency below the knee.
3. Vision impairment:
 - a. Group PPVI: legally blind

DESCRIPTION OF ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS ACCORDINGLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC ORGANISATION:

- 1.- Impaired muscle power: Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio.
- 2.- Limb deficiency: Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
- 3.- Visual impairment: Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex. A visual capacity of 5% or less.

PARA POLE CATEGORY CRITERIA:

- There is no limit on age.
- Only singles are allowed to participate; there is no doubles category.
- Only Elite division will be open for competition.

The following amendments and exceptions have been made for the Para Pole division:

- Compulsories:
 - o Para pole athletes will be required to follow the same criteria as amateur division in terms of number of elements chosen, the eligible point range allowed and the range of elements to choose from.
 - o On top of this, a 20° tolerance is allowed on all flexibility and strength elements.
- Tech deductions:
 - o Singular deductions:
 - Poor execution and incorrect lines will not be judged for any Para Pole athletes.
 - Poor transition in and out of elements and on and off the pole will also not be judged for any Para Pole athletes.
 - o Overall deductions:
 - The criteria for total height of pole is amended for Para Pole athletes - this category will only be required to use 50% height of the pole.
- For the limb deficiency group: the use of prosthetics will be allowed.
- For visual impairment:
 - o In the case of an athlete with a visual capacity of more than 5%, but who is still classified as having a visual impairment, the athlete will be required to provide special (black out) glasses that cover the vision of the athlete and thus brings their visual capacity to the same level as the other athletes in this category.
 - o Additionally, the athletes' coach will be allowed to cue the athlete from off- stage during the routine. This will be strictly regulated, and only the following will be allowed:
 - The angle of the elements in relation to the judges using the numbers of the clock (For example turn to 3 o clock etc.) will be allowed.
 - Words as right and left, floor and roof, and distance to the poles will be permitted for the safety of the athlete.
 - The coach and the athlete will also be required to provide and use an emergency word like STOP, in case of danger, falling out of the stage, or the athlete hitting themselves on the poles.
 - Any other kind of cueing from off-stage (for example regarding the lines of the toes and knees, holding 2 seconds, or spins of 360 and 720) will be penalised by the head judge.
- All Para pole athletes will be required to present a doctors' certificate prior to the competition to the competition organiser certifying that they do qualify for their particular division, and may be required to provide further information if requested.