



Who Can Play?

An overview of who is eligible
to play
Sitting Volleyball and beach
Volleyball for people with a
physical impairment

Last Updated 5 October 2021

Overview

- This presentation is aimed to provide potential players, coaches, or national organisations, with BASIC information about the potential eligibility of individuals to play volleyball for people with a physical impairment
- Content:
 - Introduction
 - The disciplines
 - Classification
 - Eligible and Non-eligible impairments
 - Minimal Eligibility for each impairment type
 - How to get classified





Introduction

- Eligibility for volleyball for people with a physical impairment is determined by the World ParaVolley classification system
- ParaVolley classification is based on assessing how a person's physical impairment impacts on their ability to move, and particularly to perform the actions of volleyball
- The classification system historically is an amputee and Les Autres based system, but all physical impairments can be considered if they are able to be objectively verified and demonstrably cause an activity limitation for ParaVolley as set out in the classification rules.
- The World ParaVolley Classification System works in compliance with the IPC Classification Code (2015) and associated International Standards.

The ParaVolley Disciplines

Sitting Volleyball



- played by teams with up to 12 players – 6 on court at one time
- on an indoor court measuring 10m long and 6m wide with a net height of either 1.05m(W) or 1.15m(M).
- A team may have two VS2 (Minimal Disability) class players but of the 6 players on the court, only one may be in a VS2 sport class.
- If the libero is on court the six players must still fulfill this requirement.
- The rules are the same as for able-bodied Volleyball except that the serve may be blocked or attacked and players may not lift their buttocks off the ground when playing the ball, except in extreme defensive actions.



The ParaVolley Disciplines

Beach Volleyball

- Two versions: Beach ParaVolley (Standing) and Sitting Beach Volleyball
- The two versions follow a combination of the rules of able-bodied Beach Volleyball, and World ParaVolley Standing and Sitting volleyball,
- Each team has only 3 players
- The classification requirements for Beach ParaVolley (Standing) and Sitting Beach Volleyball are that only one A class player may be in the team.
- There are no substitute players allowed.



Classification

– What is classification?

- Classification is a formal process of assessing whether a person meets the minimal impairment eligibility criteria of a sport, and what class or group they should compete in, based on the classification rules of that sport

– Why classify?

- Classification is aimed at ensuring that the outcome of sport competition is not determined by differences in physical impairment or impairment level between people or teams.
- For example, a person with a leg amputation running a 100m race against a person with an arm amputation – the outcome of competition would be potentially determined by the difference in their impairment rather than their skill / training / talent



ParaVolley Classification

Eligible Impairments

- Eligible impairments must be permanent physical impairments that affect a persons ability to move, and that meet the minimal impairment criteria. These impairments include:
 - Reduced limb length – limb deficiency (arm or leg), leg length difference Amputations, limb dysmelia or malformation, shortening due to injury or birth defect
 - Reduced Passive Joint Range of Motion
 - Significant and permanent musculoskeletal injuries that result in reduced joint movement
 - Reduced muscle power / strength
 - Neurological conditions – e.g. polio, cerebral palsy, nerve damage
 - Significant trauma to muscle or limb
 - Movement related coordination problems such as hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis such as found for example in Cerebral Palsy, traumatic brain injury, Multiple Sclerosis



ParaVolley Classification

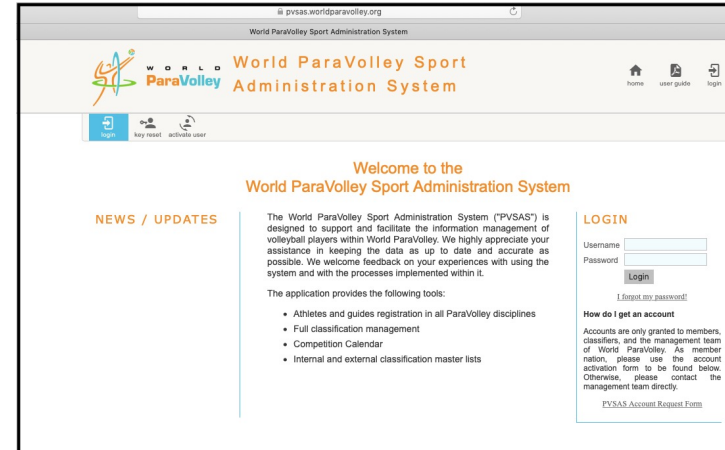
Non-eligible Impairments

- There are several types of impairment that are valid impairments, but that are not able to be classified under the World ParaVolley Classification Rules. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Vision Impairment
 - Intellectual impairment
 - Limitations to movement that are caused or significantly limited by PAIN – if pain is the cause of the limitation or significantly limits the assessment of movement or function, then that person will be found not to be eligible for competition
 - Any condition that is not able to be objectively verified by medical testing and documentation PLUS physical assessment

ParaVolley Classification

Classification Process

- Classification starts with paperwork!
- International Classification Evaluation can only be completed if the athlete's underlying health condition has been verified by a Classification Eligibility Officer or Committee
 - The athlete must be registered on the on the ParaVolley Sport Administration System (PVSAS).
 - A Medical Diagnostic Form and supporting medical documents must be uploaded to each athlete's file on PVSAS
 - Once the athlete's condition leading to an Eligible impairment has been verified, the athlete can be invited for classification



World ParaVolley Sport Administration System

Welcome to the World ParaVolley Sport Administration System

NEWS / UPDATES

The World ParaVolley Sport Administration System ("PVSAS") is designed to support and facilitate the information management of volleyball players within World ParaVolley. We highly appreciate your assistance in keeping the data as up-to-date and accurate as possible. We welcome feedback on your experiences with using the system and with the processes implemented within it.

The application provides the following tools:

- Athletes and guides registration in all ParaVolley disciplines
- Full classification management
- Competition Calendar
- Internal and external classification master lists

LOGIN

Username

Password

[I forgot my password!](#)

How do I get an account?

Accounts are only granted to members, classifiers, and the management team of World ParaVolley. As member nation, please use the account activation form to be found below. Otherwise, please contact the management team directly.

[PVSAS Account Request Form](#)

Medical Diagnostics Form for World ParaVolley Athletes

This form applies for all New athletes, and for Review athletes with a condition that is progressive or fluctuating.

To be eligible for World ParaVolley an athlete must have an underlying medical diagnosis (Health Condition) that results in a Permanent and Eligible Impairment (Article 7 in the World ParaVolley Classification Rules and Regulations). The measurement of impairment seen during athlete evaluation must correspond to the diagnosis indicated below.

The form must be completed in English by a registered medical doctor (M.D.). The completed form with additional relevant medical diagnostic documentation must be uploaded to the athlete's PVSAS profile upon registration of the athlete to the PVSAS **no later than 3 months before of the event the athlete plans to participate**. WPV holds the right to request further information, if additional information is required. The athlete will not be able to undergo classification, until such time as the requested information is provided.

Please fill in the form electronically.

Athlete Information (to be completed by the NPC/NF)

Family Name:			
Given Name(s):			
Gender:	Female	Male	Date of Birth: dd/mm/yyyy
NPC/NF:		PVSAS ID:	

Medical history (to be completed typed, in English by a registered Medical Doctor, M.D.)

Athlete's Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition):	
Include description of body parts affected and limitations:	

Primary Impairment/s arising from the Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition):

Limb Deficiency/loss	Leg length Difference	
Impaired muscle power	Ataxia	Athetosis
Impaired passive range of motion	Hypertonia	

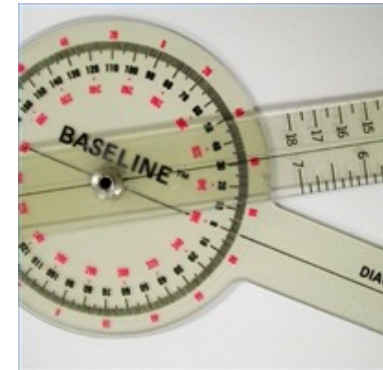
Medical condition is: Permanent Stable Progressive Fluctuating

Year of onset: (yyyy) Congenital (birth)

ParaVolley Classification

Classification Process

- Classification Evaluation can only be conducted at a sanctioned World ParaVolley event, by a panel of World ParaVolley certified classifiers.
- The evaluation process involves:
 - Bench Test - Determination of impairment
 - Muscle strength
 - Joint Range of Motion etc
 - Amputation level and prosthesis
 - Limb shortening
 - Activity limitation
 - Which movements important for volleyball?
 - Movement on court – sitting v standing
 - Jumping and landing
 - Key ball actions
 - Functional tests and novel tests
 - Observation in training and / or competition





What are the athlete's responsibilities for Classification?

- To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted by the IPC Classification Code and WPV Rules
- To participate in Athlete evaluation when requested
- To ensure that adequate information related to the Eligible Impairment and diagnostic evidence is made available where appropriate
- Read & sign the athlete classification consent form which outlines your responsibilities
- Be fair, honest, and respectful of the classification processes and rules
- Perform to the best of your abilities, and truthfully represent your skills, abilities, and degree of physical impairment to the classification panel – intentional misrepresentation of your abilities carries a ban from the sport
- Declare any medical interventions or changes in your impairment that have potential to change your sport class
- To cooperate with investigations concerning Classification Rule Violations
- To actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.



What are the Classification responsibilities of Team Support Personnel?

- To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted into the IPC Classification Code and WPV Classification rules
- To use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication
- To assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems
- To cooperate with investigations concerning Classification violations
- To assist and prepare athletes where necessary to provide adequate diagnostic information for classification
- To avoid instructing, encouraging or facilitating any athlete to intentionally misrepresent or withhold information that impacts their class allocation at any time – being found guilty of intentional misrepresentation may carry a lifetime ban from the sport!



I have an impairment, but I was found to be not eligible (NE)?

- World ParaVolley caters only for 7 of the 10 IPC eligible impairment types as already mentioned. If you have an impairment type that is not included in ParaVolley sport, you cannot compete.
- You may also be not eligible if the eligible impairment you have does not meet the minimal impairment criteria for that impairment. In this case, it is not a question whether you have an impairment, but whether that impairment leads to significant activity limitation to participate in ParaVolley sport.



So who *can* play?

IF

you have a permanent impairment that fits within the group of eligible impairments, and that causes measurable and observable limitation to movement and in particular the core actions of ParaVolley Sitting or Standing,

AND

your impairment reaches the level at or more severe than the minimal eligibility criteria listed below

THEN

you may be eligible to play a ParaVolley sport discipline and you should seek to be classified.



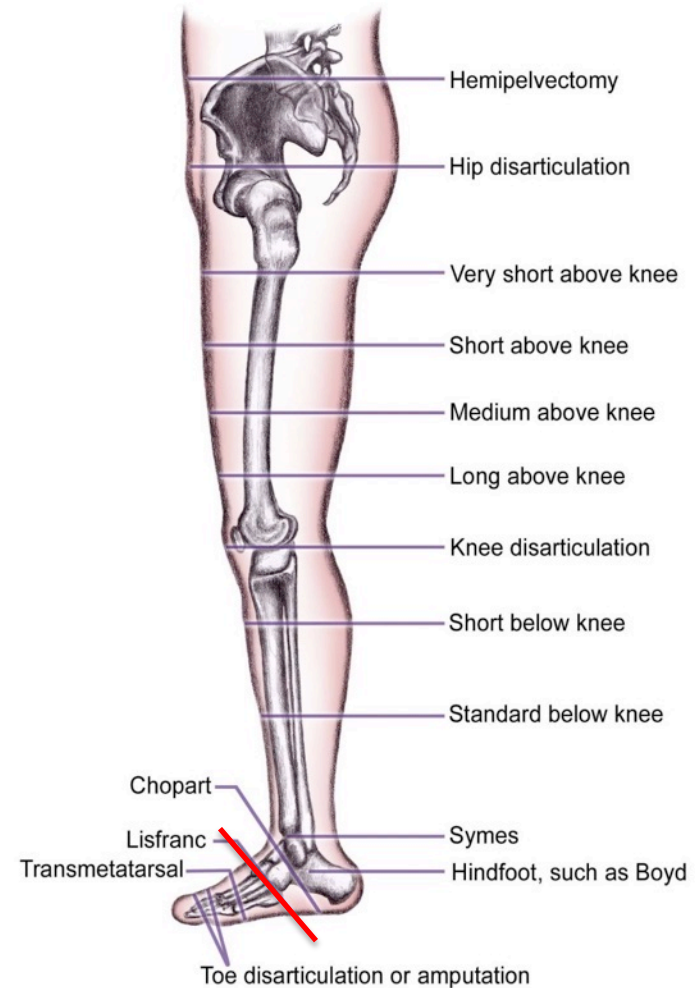
Minimal Eligibility

- The following slides outline the minimal eligibility criteria for each of the main impairment types classifiable under the World ParaVolley System, when assessed by a World ParaVolley Classification Panel
- Minimal eligibility measures are the **STARTING POINT** for classification, and form only part of the classification process – the criteria listed here are a **GUIDE ONLY**
- If you meet one of these minimal eligibility measures or criteria, we recommend that you seek further advice and attend classification to verify your eligibility, and to assign a **CLASS** for competition.

MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY AMPUTATION – Lower Limb

- Minimum eligibility
 - Amputation at or higher than Lisfranc amputation one side – this means through the whole foot between the tarsal and metatarsal bones (see diagram)

Diagram from: www.E-medicine.medscape.com



MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY

AMPUTATION – Upper Limb (Sitting VB)

- Minimum eligibility
 - Amputation of thumbs of BOTH hands, or index and middle fingers across both hands
 - Amputation of any four digits on one hand at MCP joints or thumb and adjacent two fingers on one hand
 - Stiffness (no passive movement at all) of ALL fingers on BOTH hands
 - Transmetacarpal amputation $\frac{1}{2}$ one side (see diagram)



MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY

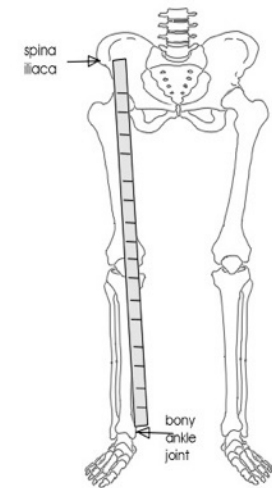
AMPUTATION – Upper Limb (Standing VB)

- Minimum eligibility
 - Amputation of thumbs of BOTH hands, or 7 fingers across both hands
 - Loss of 50% of the function of the first three fingers of BOTH hands
 - Stiffness (no passive movement at all) of ALL fingers on BOTH hands
 - Transmetacarpal amputation $\frac{1}{2}$ one side (see diagram)



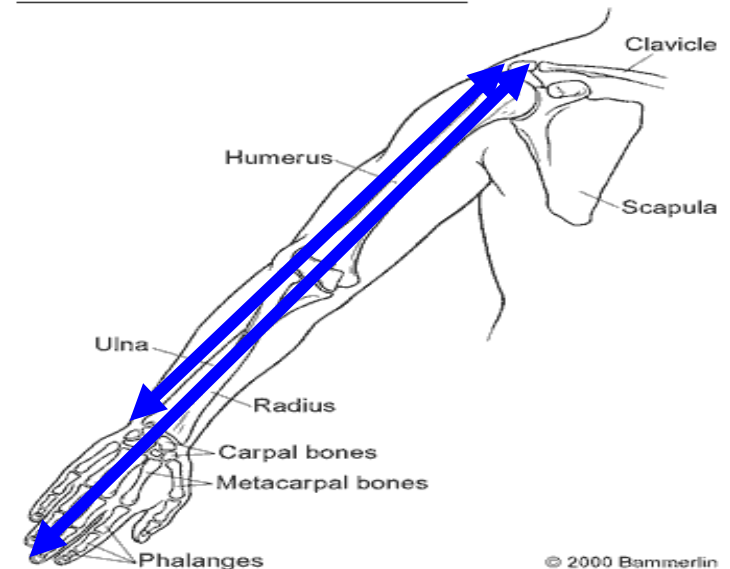
MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY Shortening

- Upper Limb – dysmelia of
 - 25% or more (Sitting VB)
 - 33% or more (Standing VB)
 as measured from tip of acromion process of shoulder to tip of middle finger or ulnar styloid or equivalent – see diagram
- Lower Limb - more than 7% - measured from ASIS to medial malleolus with leg in anatomical position – see diagram



www.totaljoints.info

Fig. 2: Bones of the upper limb.

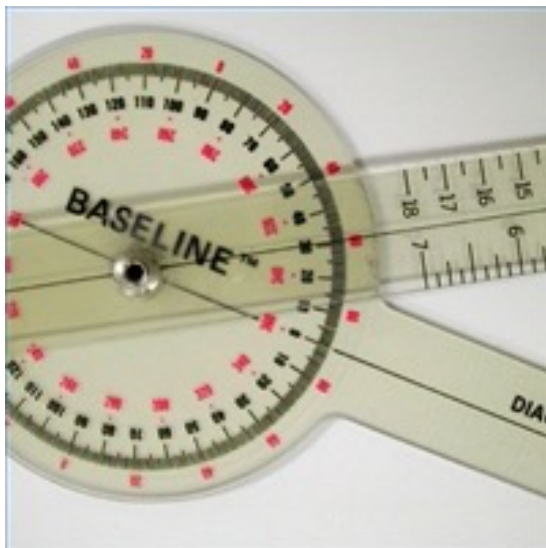


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MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY

Loss of Joint Range of Motion

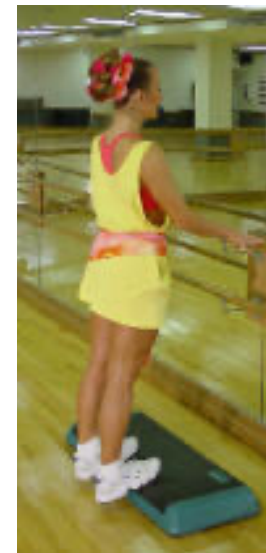


- Loss of Range of Motion (ROM) must be permanent and refers to loss motion when the joint is moved by someone else (Passive Range of Motion), as measured by a goniometer (diagram).
- HAND:
 - ‘afunctional’ fingers or ‘Stiff’ wrist one side
 - Position important
- ELBOW: ‘stiff’ in 45° Flexion or more
- SHOULDER: Abduction and Flexion not more than 90°
- ANKLE: ‘stiff’ ankle one side – less than 5 degrees arc of movement Dorsiflexion / Plantarflexion
- KNEE: Stiffness in less than 45 degrees Flexion,
- HIP: Less than 90 degrees Flexion

MINIMAL ELIGIBILITY

Loss of Muscle Strength

- Muscle strength is formally tested using the 5 point Oxford grading scale where 5/5 is given for normal strength and 0/5 is given when there is not even a muscle contraction
- Loss of muscle strength is usually caused by damage to nerve or muscle, and must be due to verifiable physical causes – weakness due to pain or disuse is NOT ELIGIBLE.
- **Minimum eligibility Sitting VB**
 - One Upper Limb: 15 points lost
 - Both Lower Limbs: 7 points lost
- **Minimum eligibility Standing VB**
 - One Upper Limb: 20 points lost
 - Both Lower Limbs: 5 points lost (some exceptions apply)



Classification for Sitting Volleyball

- The Classes
 - VS2
 - Meets minimal eligibility criteria, but impairment is minimal in terms of volleyball – may be difficult to see the functional limitation on court
 - VS1
 - Impairment is more significant on any of the measurements, and the impairment should result in observable functional limitation on court
 - Borderline between VS1, VS2 and Not Eligible are described in World ParaVolley Classification Handbook (2018) on the website under “Medical”
 - Maximum one VS2 on court and two on team



Classification for Sitting Volleyball

- Functional Observation
 - Serving
 - Digging
 - Volley/Setting
 - Spiking
 - Blocking
 - Diving/Stretching
 - Moving in a sitting on the floor position





Classification for Beach ParaVolley (Standing)

- Currently based on ParaVolley Standing Classification System
- Classes: A,B, & C
 - A – minimal impairment
 - B or C
 - Functional Assessment should take into account different playing surface and impact of 3 v 6 players on court
- Teams can have a maximum of 1 athlete with A sport class



Beach ParaVolley - Classification Chart

Class on Court	A		B			C		
Amputation	Thumb & index fingers of both hands	Chopart one side	Below elbow (A8) (long stump)	Below Elbow (A8) short stump	Chopart both sides	Above elbow	Exarticulation in hip (A2) with prosthesis	Hemipelvectomy (A2) with prosthesis
	Seven or more fingers (2 hands)	Below knee (A4) through ankle	Lisfranc on 2 feet with prosthesis	Below knee (A4) with prosthesis		Above knee (A2) with prosthesis	Below knee (A4) or above knee (A2) without prosthesis	
	Between MP joint and CM joint *12 one side	Between CM joint and RC joint *12 one side				Above knee (A2) through knee with prosthesis		Below knee 2 sides above ankle with prosthesis
	Lisfranc one side	Unilat Dysmelia upper limb of more than 33 - 50%	Unilat Dysmelia upper limb of more than 50%					Combination (A9) upper and lower limbs
Shortening Lower Limb	7 – 11.9%	12 – 15.9%	16 – 49.9%	50 – 65.9%		More than 66%		
Loss of muscle points ONE upper limb	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59 Loss of 20 muscular points with use of arm	60 - 65	66 – 70 Loss of 20 muscular points without use of arm		
Loss of muscle points BOTH lower limbs	5 - 10'	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30	31 - 40 Loss of 20 muscle points Hip one side	More than 40	
PROM - Shoulder one side	Abduction & flexion not more than 90°							
PROM - Elbow one side	Elbow extension deficit of 45-90 degrees		Elbow extension deficit of more than 90 degrees			Without functional use of one arm		
PROM - Wrist one side	Afunctional – not > 5 degrees arc of motion							
PROM - Fingers one hand	Afunctional Hand							
PROM - Hip one side				Stiff – not more than 5 degrees				
PROM - Knee one side						Stiff – not > 5 degrees		
PROM - Ankle		Stiff – not > 5						



For more information about classification

- IPC Classification Code and the Athlete Reference Guide:

<https://www.paralympic.org/classification-code>

- World ParaVolley Classification

<https://www.worldparavolley.org/classification/>



Still have questions? For Further Information

Contact:

World ParaVolley Head of Classifier Education

E-mail: classifiededucation@worldparavolley.org

World ParaVolley Medical Director

E-mail: medicaldirector@worldparavolley.org