



**EQUESTRIAN
CANADA
ÉQUESTRE**

**PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION
POLICES AND PROCEDURES**

2026-04-08



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Dear Athlete,

Thank you for your interest in Equestrian Canada (EC) Para Dressage classification.

EC is responsible for classifying athletes for EC sanctioned competitions in accordance with the [Fédération Équestre Internationale \(FEI\) Para-Equestrian Classification Rules](#).

Athletes with minimal functional impairment must meet the FEI criteria in order to compete in para dressage events.

As outlined in the FEI Classification Manual, classification is not intended to be comprehensive or all-encompassing. Para Equestrian classification is, by definition, exclusive rather than inclusive.

Not every individual with a physical or visual health condition will be eligible for para dressage, and a determination that an athlete is “not eligible” or “not classifiable” does not mean they are not impaired. The severity of their impairment is recognized, but some impairments do not fit within the classification system.

Athletes must have an eligible health condition that results in permanent eligible impairment that is significant enough to meet the minimal impairment criteria as outline in the [FEI Classification Rules](#)

Classification is mandatory for para dressage athletes to compete at EC Silver and Gold para dressage competitions. It is recommended but not mandatory to receive classification at the EC Bronze level. Early classification can help with talent identification and mark a clear path towards international competition.

Please complete and return the following applicable appendix forms:

- Appendix 1 – Para Dressage Classification Application Form (Physical Impairment)
- Appendix 2 – Para Dressage Classification Application Form (Visual Impairment)
- Appendix 3 – Para Dressage Classification Payment Form
- Appendix 4 – Para Dressage Consent for Classification
- Appendix 5 – Para Dressage Classification Certificate of Diagnosis
- Appendix 6 – Para Dressage Request for Commander Compensating Aid
- Appendix 7 – Para Dressage Classification Protest Form

Should you have any questions regarding the classification program, please contact Jamie-Ann Goodfellow, Coordinator, Para Dressage / Dressage, via e-mail at jgoodfellow@equestrian.ca or by telephone at 343-308-5323 .



The following document outlines the policies and procedures used by EC for para dressage athlete classification.

1. About Classification

EC para dressage classifies and assesses athletes in accordance with the methods and standards of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

The [FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules](#), First Edition, are based on the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Manual, Fifth Edition which was produced by The FEI Classification Working Group in consultation with The FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee, FEI Classifiers and National Federations. These Classification Rules have been written with reference to the following documents produced by The FEI or the International Paralympic Committee (IPC):

- FEI Para Dressage Rules
- FEI Driving Rules
- IPC Model Rules for Classification (2016)
- IPC Athlete Classification Code (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals (2015) It is recommended that National Federations adopt these Rules for National Classification.

2. Introduction

Classification for Para Equestrian sport was introduced to the Paralympic Games in Atlanta. The Profile System was developed by Dr Christine Meaden (PhD) during the early 1990s as part of her PhD research study (unpublished) **to establish a standardized scoring method for classification**. Dr. Meaden's research included the collection of data over a four-year period **which formed the baseline scores used to determine athlete Profiles, as described in this Manual**.

Since this time, the Meaden Profiling system has been refined and enhanced, including the addition of new Profiles and the adjustment to baseline scores to better reflect the requirements of the sport.

Para dressage provides athletes with a physical or visual impairment the opportunity to compete against other athletes with similar functional abilities. In order to compete in para dressage, athletes must go through a classification process where they are assigned a "Grade" based on their functional ability. When they compete, they are then judged on their riding skill against other athletes of the same Grade. There are five (5) Grades of competitions in para dressage: Grade I represents the more severely impaired athletes and Grade V represents the least severely impaired.

Classification is a process that includes the assessment of an athlete's functional ability by a physiotherapist or medical doctor who is accredited by EC to conduct evaluations on its behalf for the disciplines of Para Dressage and Para Driving.



Athletes must undergo the classification process which determines an applicant's eligibility for Para Dressage. If the applicant is eligible the results of the classification process will determine a Grade in which the athlete can compete. A profile will be assigned to determine if and what additional compensating /adapted aids are permitted and which aids may be used by the applicant.

A standardized classification system is used to assess muscle strength, coordination, range of movement or a combination of these scales. The evaluation is limited to what is required for Para Dressage or Para Driving.

EC classifies athletes in accordance with the methods and standards of the FEI (as outlined in the [FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules](#))

At each Grade, athletes may receive approval to use specific compensating /adapted aids during competition, which will be listed on the athlete's classification profile and EC Master list. The purpose of compensating /adapted aids (sometimes known as adaptive tack or specialized equipment) is to level the competitive playing field. Examples of compensating aids include rubber bands to stirrups or two whips. While adaptive aids are varied and can be unique to an athlete, they should never provide an advantage.

Para Dressage athletes are welcome to compete alongside Dressage competitors in EC sanctioned competitions. Athletes wishing to participate in Dressage classes need to provide a copy of their [Classification Masterlist](#) with their show entry if they wish to use their compensating aids.

3. **An Introduction to Para Dressage – Education Module**

Para Dressage is an equestrian sport that provides individuals with eligible physical and or visual impairments the opportunity to compete against athletes with similar abilities. Para Dressage athletes train and compete with their horses to perform patterns of movement similar to Dressage.

Whether you are an Athlete, Instructor, Coach, Parent, Guardian, Official, supporter, or simply someone interested in learning more about the sport, this module is designed for you.

This educational module offers an introduction to Para Dressage, including an overview of the athlete classification process for competition and the role of compensating aids in training and competition.

- Module 1 [LINK](#)

Important- Prerequisite for Classification Application:

Module 1 must be completed prior to submitting a classification application. It is available on the EC Campus and confirmation of completion must be submitted with the classification application.



4. The Competition Pathway in Para Dressage – Education Module 2

Para Dressage offers individuals with eligible physical and/or visual impairments the opportunity to compete at all levels—from grassroots to international and the Paralympics.

If you are an Athlete, Instructor, or Coach looking to compete at any stage of the competition pathway, this module is designed to guide you.

This educational module provides an overview of Equestrian Canada’s Para Dressage Competition Pathway, and equips athletes and coaches with the information needed to prepare for and perform successfully in Para Dressage competitions.

- Module 2 [LINK](#)

Important - Prerequisite for Classification Application:

Module 2 must be completed prior to submitting a classification application. It is available on the EC Campus and confirmation of completion must be submitted with classification application.

5. Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group

The Para-Dressage Classification Advisory Group (CAG) is a standing advisory group established to develop classification standards and policies under the direction of the EC Senior Manager, Dressage Olympic/Paralympic Program and reporting of the EC Director of High Performance.

The CAG is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving eligible athlete classification requests;
- Determining if a request meets the criteria to proceed with athlete evaluation.
- Reviewing medical dispensation requests for Bronze-level competitions.
- Coordinating ongoing education and development opportunities for EC Classifiers.
- Reviewing all applications for classification to ensure compliance with EC standards.

If an application is not approved, the CAG is also responsible for notifying the applicant and providing a detailed explanation for the decision via the Para Dressage Department.

6. Certificate of Diagnosis (Eligible Impairment)

Medical and diagnostic documentation regarding the athlete’s impairment is required for all athletes applying for para dressage classification. In some cases, the Certificate of Diagnosis completed by the athlete’s general practitioner is sufficient documentation for certain impairments.

For some athletes, further medical and diagnostic documentation may be required by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG may seek third party expertise of any nature if it is considered that it would assist in completing the process of athlete evaluation.



Athletes with fluctuating conditions, for example, multiple sclerosis (MS), are required to provide the following documentation:

- A signed report or letter from a relevant medical specialist (for example, neurologist).
- A clear statement of diagnosis that provides detailed information regarding the specific diagnosis (for example, in the instance of MS, the type of MS: relapsing remitting, primary progressive or secondary progressive type) and the date the diagnosis was made.
- Results of medical investigations may be required if relevant to the condition and may include cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) examinations, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, evoked potential (EP) results or a muscle biopsy.

Athletes must submit all medical and diagnostic documentation a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the athlete evaluation for the CAG to determine if the athlete is eligible for classification.

For all athletes, failure to provide the required medical documentation will result in their application being deemed ineligible for classification.

All medical documentation will be handled with utmost care and confidentiality and will be stored in password protected internal SharePoint (Microsoft Corporation) folders by EC.

Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

- The Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) is the standard set by the FEI that defines the level of eligible impairment an athlete must have to be deemed eligible to compete in Para Equestrian Sport.
- Determining whether an athlete meets the MIC is done through an evaluation by a classification panel.
- The CAG assesses whether the athlete has an eligible underlying health condition and impairment; the MIC is determined through this evaluation.
- To compete, an athlete must have an Eligible Impairment that is permanent, verifiable, and measurable, and it must meet the MIC for the specific para sport.
- The FEI establishes the MIC to ensure that an athlete's eligible impairment directly impacts their ability to perform the essential tasks and activities of Para Dressage.

Eligible Impairment Types, Assessment Methodology and Minimum Impairment Criteria

Source: FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules, Appendix I - Athletes with Physical Impairment

- Impaired Muscle Power
- Impaired Passive Range of Movement
- Limb Deficiency and or Leg Length Difference
- Short Stature
- Coordination Impairments - Hypertonia / Spasticity / Motor Ataxia / Dyskinesia (Athetosis/dystonia, chorea)
- Visual Impairment – IBSA – B1 / B2



Examples of non-eligible Impairments include but are not limited to the following:

- Pain
- Hearing impairment
- Low muscle tone
- Hypermobility of joints
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation of a joint
- Impaired muscle endurance
- Impaired motor reflex functions
- Impaired cardiovascular functions
- Impaired respiratory functions
- Impaired metabolic functions
- Intellectual impairment – a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour.
- Impaired vision with International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) classification B3 and B4.
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

7. Levels of Classification for Canadian Athletes

7.1 National (EC) Classification

National classification is provided through appointed Classifiers and enables eligible athletes to be assigned a Grade for competition at EC Silver and Gold level Para Dressage competitions using compensating aids. The national classification process (including the issuance of an EC athlete classification profile) is administered through EC. Athletes must be actively competing in video competitions, Dressage competitions, or planning to compete within the next 6–8 months.

Athletes who compete at the EC Bronze level do not require classification but must have an EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate. This certifies that the athlete has a physical impairment and specifies any approved compensating/ adapted aids for competition.

Athletes who are classified can compete in dressage competitions and are allowed to use their approved compensating aids listed on the EC Classification Master List.

7.2 International (FEI) Classification

International classification is required for athletes competing at the international (FEI) level. It is provided and administered through the FEI international classification system and is typically conducted at an FEI CPEDI competition.

To request international classification, athletes must have competed at the Canadian National Championships or at two National Level Gold competitions in their nationally classified Grade within the last 12 months, achieving an average score of 65% or above in Intermediate or Grand Prix tests.



International classification supersedes any classification issued by EC. Therefore, once an athlete has received an international classification through the FEI, they must adhere to that classification for all EC competition purposes as well.

For example, if an athlete was previously classified as Grade III through EC but is later classified as Grade IV by the FEI, the athlete must compete as a Grade IV at EC-sanctioned competitions.

Additionally, if an athlete is deemed by the FEI to have an impairment that is not eligible or does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and is allocated a "Not Eligible" (NE) status, they will not be eligible to compete in EC-sanctioned para dressage competitions. Athletes must adhere to the results of their international classification for national competition purposes as well.

8. Eligibility for National Para Dressage Classification

To be eligible for national para dressage classification, athletes must meet the following criteria:

- Complete Para Dressage Education Module 1 and Module 2 through the EC Campus
- Have an eligible underlying health condition that leads to a permanent impairment which will be assessed during classification to determine if it meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC), as outlined in the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules.
- Be a current Equestrian Canada (EC) member in good standing.
- Be at least 12 years of age as of January 1 of the calendar year or receive special approval from the CAG if you are younger than 12 years of age.

9. National Para Dressage Classification Process

9.1 Para Dressage Classification Application Process

Step 1: Submit Required Documents

The athlete completes all required documentation and submits it to Equestrian Canada (EC) for review.

- To receive classification, athletes must submit all applicable completed documentation at least three (3) months before their first EC Silver or Gold level competition.
 - Para Dressage Educational Module 1 – EC- Campus
 - Para Dressage Educational Module 2 – EC - Campus
 - Appendix 1 – Para Dressage Classification Application Form (Physical Impairment)
 - Appendix 2 – Para Dressage Classification Application Form (Visual Impairment)
 - Appendix 3 – Para Dressage Classification Payment Form
 - Appendix 4 – Para Dressage Consent for Classification
 - Appendix 5 – Para Dressage Classification Certificate of Diagnosis



Step 2: Eligibility Review by Classification Advisory Group (CAG)

The CAG reviews the submitted documents to determine if the athlete's health condition meets eligibility criteria, and whether any additional documentation is required.

- The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group (CAG) will review each athlete's *Certificate of Diagnosis* form to confirm whether the athlete has an eligible impairment. Final determination of whether the athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) is made by the classification panel during the athlete's in-person assessment.
- If the health condition is not eligible, the athlete will **not** undergo an in-person evaluation.

Step 3: Athlete Evaluation

Eligible athletes meet with a classification panel composed of two (2) Classifiers appointed by the CAG. Classifiers may seek third-party expertise if it is considered helpful in completing the evaluation.

- The Athlete must bring one (1) representative, preferably their coach, so the Classifiers can discuss the athlete's impairment with both the athlete and coach.
- The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Grade.
- The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel. If the Athlete uses approved medication to manage pain or muscle spasms, the Athlete is required to take the medication within an appropriate time frame to be of maximum affect at the time the Athlete Evaluation is conducted.
- The athlete's representative shall not speak during the evaluation unless directly addressed by the Classifiers, to maintain the integrity and focus of the evaluation.
- The athlete must arrive with all relevant medical documentation, including but not limited to:
 - Certificate of Diagnosis
 - Additional medical reports
 - Medical records
 - Diagnostic information related to the impairment

The evaluation uses standardized tests outlined in the FEI Classification Manual and may assess:

- Muscle power
- Coordination
- Passive range of motion
- A combination of these scales

Classifiers do not assess the athlete's riding ability during the evaluation; their role is solely to assess the athlete's impairment.



- After the evaluation, the athlete may be asked to submit video footage or photos to support profile determination.

The results of the athlete evaluation determine the athlete's Grade and Profile, including any permitted compensating/ adapted aids.

Step 4: Eligibility Determination and Grade Assignment

- After the Athlete Evaluation, the results are reviewed by the CAG to determine the athlete's classification outcome.
- Two to three (2–3) weeks after the evaluation, the athlete will receive confirmation from EC of their functional profile and Grade, verified and approved by the CAG.
- The athlete's classification results and data papers are sent to EC, where they are securely stored and held in strict confidence.
- EC will notify the athlete and update the EC Para Dressage Classification Master List, which will include:
 - Functional profile
 - Grade
 - Permitted compensating aids, as applicable

The athlete will be assigned one of the following Grade Statuses:

- REVIEW (R): Indicates the athlete has obtained a Grade for national competition but may require further evaluation according to FEI rules.
- REVIEW WITH A FIXED DATE (FRD): Indicates the athlete will require further evaluation, but not before a set date (the Fixed Review Date).
- CONFIRMED (C): Indicates the athlete has obtained a Grade for national competition and does not require further evaluation.
- It is the responsibility of the athlete to arrange for reclassification within the appropriate time period. Failure to do so may result in being ineligible to compete.
- Current EC Sport Licence Holders can print a copy of their classification profile through their [MyEC](#) account.
- If the athlete's impairment meets the minimal impairment criteria, they are assigned a Grade and Profile, including any permitted compensating /adapted aids.
- If the impairment is not significant enough, the athlete will not be eligible for Para Dressage nor Para Driving.

9.2 Classification Process and Costs

- The cost of national classification is \$200.00, in addition to any travel expenses required for the athlete to attend the classification session.
- Classification applications are reviewed bi-monthly by the CAG. Classification sessions are scheduled based on classifier availability or through designated Classification Hubs.
- Due to the limited number of classifiers across Canada, it may not be feasible to hold classification sessions near every athlete's location. In some cases, athletes may need to choose between traveling to a classification session or waiting until a session is available closer to home (typically when more athletes in the area are ready for classification).



9.3 Classification Timelines Following Injury

- The athlete's medical doctor must indicate the date of the athlete's injury within the Certificate of Diagnosis form.
- Classification can only be conducted at a minimum of one (1) year following a neurological injury, peripheral nerve injury or spinal cord injury.
- For orthopedic injuries that did not require surgery, classification may occur no sooner than three (3) months after the injury.
- For orthopedic injuries involving surgery, including amputation, classification may take place no sooner than nine (9) months following the procedure.
- In exceptional circumstances, and with appropriate supporting medical documentation, the CAG may recommend classification outside of the standard timelines, either earlier or later, on a case-by-case basis.

9.4 Classification Profile Review Date

- There is no cost for classification reviews other than any travel expenses incurred by the athlete to attend the classification appointment. Unless the athlete requests a classification review prior to their classification review date and or they are confirmed and request a classification review.
- The classification profile review date is listed on the EC Para Dressage Classification Master list and is determined by the nature of an athlete's impairment and/or the athlete's age at the time of classification.
- Athletes must notify EC **at least three (3) months before** their classification profile is due to expire if they wish to continue being classified.
- Depending on the nature of the athlete's impairment and age, the CAG may request an athlete be re-classified when their classification profile is due to expire.
- In addition, the "valid until" date of a classification profile may also be extended at the discretion of the CAG.
- An athlete with a Status Review (R), Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD), will be removed from the Classification Masterlist if they have not competed in a Para Equestrian competition in a period of one (1) year. To return to competition they must make a new Classification request.
- Medical Review: Re-classification will be considered only for athletes who are designated Review, or with the submission of evidence of a change in medical status or the onset of a new medical condition.

9.5 EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List

- EC must maintain an athlete master list of athletes, which must include the athlete's name, gender, Grade and Grade Status.
- The EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List is posted on the EC website and available to all EC competition organizers, officials, coaches and athletes.
- EC is responsible for maintaining the EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List, with relevant details only.
- Para dressage athletes **must** print the latest version of their classification profile, available through **MyEC** or the EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List, and submit it with their show entry forms.
- Athletes are also advised to keep a copy of their classification profile handy while on competition grounds, as the steward or judges may request to see the list if they did not get a copy from the show secretary.
- It is acceptable to keep the **current** copy of your classification profile on your cell phone.



9.6 Classification Files

- Active classification files will remain confidential and are securely stored and maintained at the EC office.
- New classification requests will be held at the EC office for one (1) year from the date of receipt. If the athlete does not attend a classification session from within the year from approval, the file will be destroyed.
- Expired classification files will be destroyed two (2) years after the classification expiry.
- Classification files will be archived or removed from the EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List if the athlete has not been active within two (2) years, as demonstrated by results recorded in MyEC Results or participation in Video Competitions.

9.7 Compensating / Adapted Aids

- Athletes who wish to add or amend a non standard compensating /adaptive equipment on the EC Para Dressage Athlete Master List they must submit a request with rationale through EC for review.
- All requests will be reviewed by the CAG, and the decision to approve or deny the addition or amendment of compensating aid is made at the sole discretion of the CAG.

9.8 Classification Timelines

An athlete may only undergo classification once every 12 months.

However, if an athlete experiences a significant change in their medical diagnosis or condition within that 12-month period, they may submit a request to the CAG for consideration of an early reclassification.

The CAG may, at its discretion, permit such a reclassification only if it is satisfied that:

1. A change in the athlete's medical diagnosis or condition has occurred;
2. The change is significant in nature; and
3. The athlete's request includes credible and reliable evidence, which is the athlete's responsibility to provide. This must consist of appropriately signed and clearly documented materials that directly support the claims outlined in points (1) and (2) above.

10. International Para Dressage Classification Process

10.1 International Classification Application

- To request international classification, athletes must have competed at the Canadian National Championships or at two National Level Gold competitions in their national classified grade within the last 12 months, achieving an average score of 65% or above in FEI Intermediate or FEI Grand Prix tests.



- To receive FEI classification, athletes must submit the following completed relevant documentation at least 8 weeks before their CPEDI2* Competitions to the Para Dressage Department for the CAG approval:
 - [FEI Classification Request Form](#)
 - [FEI Medical Diagnostic Form](#)
 - [FEI Consent for Classification](#)

10.2 Classification Process and Costs

- The cost is paid to the competition organizer, in addition to any travel expenses required for the athlete to attend the classification session.
- Once the CAG approves the application it is submitted to the FEI for review and approval by the FEI Classification Panel.

10.3 Athlete Classification Evaluation

- If an athlete has not received FEI Classification before, they are not required to compete in a competition, and their classification status will remain as **OA (Observed Assessment)** until they are seen in competition.
- Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the athlete's Grade Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment. An Athlete can remain on the FEI Masterlist for a maximum of two (2) years with tracking code OA, after which time, if the Observation Assessment has not been completed, the Athlete will be removed from the FEI Masterlist unless a suitable explanation is given by the NF. If an Athlete is removed from the FEI Masterlist after two years they will also be removed from the EC Classification Masterlist unless a suitable explanation is given to EC and is actively competing at National level within the last 12 months.
- An Athlete with a Status Review (R), Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) or Confirmed (C), will be removed from the FEI Classification Masterlist if they have not competed in a Para Equestrian competition in a period of four (4) years. To return to competition they must make a new National classification request. The Athlete will be removed from the EC Classification Masterlist in addition to the FEI Masterlist unless a suitable explanation is given to EC and is actively competing at National level within the last 12 months.

11 EC Para Dressage Classification Protests and Appeals Guidelines

Definitions:

The terms "Protest" and "Appeal" are used in the EC Para Dressage Classification Protests and Appeals Guidelines, based on the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

- "*Protest*" refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's Grade may be submitted.
- "*Appeal*" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures were conducted is made. A protest or appeal that is accepted may result in an athlete



evaluation being conducted by a new classification panel, which will be referred to as a “*Para Dressage Classification Protest Panel*”.

- “*Para Dressage Classification Protest Review Panel*” is the panel that will review a Protest submission. The Classification Protest Review Panel is comprised of the Chair of the CAG the EC High Performance Director and one (1) retired Classifier. If the Chair of the CAG was involved in the original classification, a second retired Classifier would be selected for the Para Dressage Classification Review Protest Panel.
- “*Para Dressage Classification Protest Panel*” is the panel that will re-evaluate an athlete if determined necessary by the Para Dressage Classification Protest Review Panel. The Para Dressage Classification Protest Panel is comprised of two (2) Classifiers who did not take part in the classification under protest. One Classifier on the Para Dressage Protest Classification Panel may be a retired Classifier and act as a scribe for the classification session.

Classification Protest

1. A Protest may only be made in respect to an Athlete’s Grade. A Protest may not be made in respect to an Athlete’s Grade Status.
2. An Athlete’s Grade may only be subject to one Protest.
3. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Grade NE.
4. Athletes who wish to Protest the decision of the Grade that is allocated shall have 21 days from the date on which they received their EC para dressage classification results. The Protest must be submitted in writing to the EC Para Dressage Department.
5. Protesting the decision of the Grade initially allocated in an athlete evaluation must be accepted by the Para Dressage Classification Protest Review Panel for the athlete’s reclassification evaluation to be conducted.
6. Once a protest has been accepted by the Para Dressage Classification Protest Review Panel, a reclassification will be conducted by a Para Dressage Classification Protest Panel at the next EC classification opportunity.
7. The fee for the Protest reclassification is \$200. All fees (including travel) for the reclassification are at the expense of the athlete.
8. The Para Dressage Classification Panel’s decision regarding the Grade allocated at the reclassification is final and binding, regardless of the result, and may not be further Protested through the EC Para Dressage Classification Protests and Appeals Guidelines.

EC Classification Protest

1. EC may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
2. It has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete’s ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Grade Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.
3. It considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Grade; or a National Federation makes a documented request to the FEI. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of the FEI.
4. A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of the FEI at an Event if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.



EC Classification Protest Procedures

- The Protested Athlete's Grade must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
- The Protested Athlete's Grade Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Grade Status is already Review (R) and
- A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

Classification Appeal

An Athlete who wishes to Appeal a Protest outcome must follow the [EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy](#) and submit the appeal through the processes outlined on the [EC Submit a Complaint or Appeal](#) webpage.



APPENDIX 1

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

This form is to be completed by athletes who require classification for physical impairments.

Physical impairment classification is available to athletes who meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria as outlined in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules.

Full Name: _____ **EC Sport Licence Number:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **Province/Territory/State:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ **Email:** _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ (DD/ MM /YYYY) **Gender:** Female Male X

Have you applied for national classification before? Yes No

If you have been previously classified, please complete the following information:

Date of Classification: _____ **Classification Location:** _____

Classification Profile Number: _____ **Classification Grade:** _____ **Sport:** _____

Types of Para Dressage (or other) competitions pursued to date (e.g. video, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization, US Equestrian, EC Bronze, Silver or Gold):

Date	Location	Competition Name	Test Name	Competition Level	Score



APPENDIX 2

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM (VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)

(Page 1 of 3)

This form is to be completed by athletes who require classification for visual impairments.

Visual Impairment Classification – Eligibility Overview

Visual impairment classification is available to athletes actively competing at the EC Bronze level who are ready to progress to Silver and Gold levels. Athletes may qualify for classification if their vision is impacted by an impairment of one or more of the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optic nerves or optic pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual cortex
---	--	---

Classification Categories:

<p>Totally Blind (B1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60 • No sight in both eyes 	<p>Partial Sight (B2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 inclusive; and/or • Visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees • Athletes in this category have limited vision in both eyes, affecting either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How far they can see (visual acuity) ○ How wide they can see (visual field)
--	---

Full Name:		EC Sport Licence Number:	
Street Address:		City:	
Province/Territory/State:		Postal Code:	
Phone:		E-mail:	
Date of Birth: (DD/ MM /YYYY)		Gender:	

Have you applied for national classification before? Yes No

If you have been previously classified, please complete the following information:

Date of Classification: _____ **Classification Location:** _____

Classification Profile Number: _____ **Classification Grade:** _____ **Sport:** _____



APPENDIX 2
PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM
(VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)

(Page 2 of 3)

This form is to be completed by athletes who require classification for visual impairments.

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL
OPTOMETRIST OR OPHTHALMOLOGIST ONLY)**

Visual Acuity

In vision units Snellen; please record over 60 rather than 36 or 24.

Without Correction: RE: LE:

With Correction: RE: LE:

Refraction: _____

Visual Field in Degrees: _____

If applicable, include copy with application.

Diagnosis: _____

Optometrist/Ophthalmologist Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address of Optometrist/Ophthalmologist: _____

Optometrist/Ophthalmologist Licence Number: _____



APPENDIX 2

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

(VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)

(Page 3 of 3)

Types of Para Dressage (or other) competitions pursued to date (e.g. video, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization, US Equestrian, EC Bronze, Silver or Gold):

Date	Location	Competition Name	Test Name	Competition Level	Score



APPENDIX 3

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PAYMENT FORM

This form is to be completed by all athletes who require classification.

New classification (\$200)

Payment processed online

*Payment for classification must be received for application to start the process.



APPENDIX 4

PARA DRESSAGE CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

(Page 1 of 2)

*This form is to be completed by **all** athletes who require classification.*

Athlete Classification Agreement – Para Equestrian (Equestrian Canada)

I, _____ (print full name), understand and agree to the following terms regarding my application for classification within the Para Equestrian system:

1. ***Purpose of Classification***

I am applying for official classification as a Para Equestrian athlete under Equestrian Canada (EC).

2. ***Classification Review***

I acknowledge that my classification status may be reviewed at any time, particularly if my diagnosis is known to vary in presentation.

3. ***Accredited Classification Requirements***

To be eligible to compete in EC Silver and Gold competitions, I must undergo classification by two (2) authorized and accredited EC Para Dressage Classifiers (“Classifiers”). All personal and medical information provided during this process will remain confidential.

4. ***Cooperation Requirement***

Failure to fully cooperate with Classifiers or to complete the classification process will result in ineligibility to compete in EC Silver and Gold sanctioned events.

5. ***Pain and Discomfort***

If my ability to participate in testing is affected by pain, I may choose to continue or discontinue the evaluation. I understand that choosing to discontinue may result in ineligibility. I acknowledge that efforts will be made to minimize discomfort, and I release the Classifiers from liability for any pain or suffering due to testing.

6. ***Athlete Evaluation Process***

I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process, as outlined in the EC Para Dressage Classification Policies and Procedures, which may involve sport-like activities, including observation while mounted. I confirm I am healthy enough to participate and understand I may need to undergo these evaluations more than once.

7. ***Documentation Requirements***

I agree to provide required documentation to demonstrate eligibility for EC Para Dressage classification. Failure to do so may result in suspension of evaluation and no Grade (Sport Class) being allocated, making me ineligible for National competitions.



APPENDIX 4

PARA DRESSAGE CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

(Page 2 of 2)

8. Duty of Full Disclosure

I understand I must give my best effort during evaluation. Any intentional misrepresentation of my abilities or impairment may result in disciplinary action under FEI regulations (General Regulations – Article 161).

9. Decision of Classification Panel

I agree to accept the judgment of the Classification Panel. If I disagree, I will follow the official Protest process outlined in the Classification Regulations.

10. Media Documentation Consent

I agree to be photographed and videotaped during the evaluation process, including submitting riding video footage, for the purpose of classification.

11. Data Use Consent

I consent to the FEI and EC maintaining and processing my personal classification data—including but not limited to my full name, date of birth, Grade (Sport Class), and status—and publishing my name, Grade, and Grade Status publicly as needed for competition organization.

12. Use of Deidentified Data

I understand that EC may use deidentified classification data to improve the classification system.

13. Consent for Other Use

If EC wishes to use my personal information for educational or promotional purposes, I will be asked for consent, which I may withdraw at any time.

Acknowledgment and Consent

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms and procedures related to the national classification process as outlined above. I agree to participate fully in all required bench and functional tests as part of the classification process.

Athlete Name (please print)		Date of Birth	
Have you ever applied for National Classification before ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
What Grade was allocated			
Signature of Athlete/Guardian/other person responsible			
Print Name:	Date:		



APPENDIX 5 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 1 of 5)

*This form is to be completed by **all** athletes who require classification for physical impairments.*

The person named below is required to undergo Equestrian Canada (EC) Para Dressage classification to compete at the national level of their chosen discipline. During the classification process, accredited EC Para Dressage Classifiers (physiotherapists or medical doctors) will assess their physical impairment as relevant to the requirements for riding an equine. To assist the classification assessment process, a confirmation of the medical diagnosis and a summary of results of relevant medical investigations to support the diagnosis is required. In some instances, a copy of a report from a medical specialist, e.g., neurologist, will be required.

Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by the FEI must have an Eligible Impairment, and that impairment must be permanent, verifiable, and measurable. However, not all Athletes with an impairment are eligible for classification. To be classified, an Athlete must have an eligible impairment that is assessed during classification to determine whether it meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC), as outlined in the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules.

ATHLETE'S DETAILS

To be completed by the athlete applying for classification. **PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS.**

Full Name:		EC Sport Licence Number:	
Street Address:		City:	
Province/Territory/State:		Postal Code:	
Phone:		E-mail:	
Date of Birth: (DD/ MM /YYYY)		Gender:	

I hereby consent to the information below being released to the EC for Para Equestrian Classification.	
Print Name:	
Signature of Athlete/Guardian/other person responsible	
Date Signed:	



APPENDIX 5 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 2 of 5)

MEDICAL DETAILS

This section to be completed by a doctor of medicine only. The physician must certify the medical condition/diagnosis with a signature and their licence number .

INFORMATION FOR THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER COMPLETING THIS FORM

Requirements:

Medical information is necessary for classifying athletes to compete in Equestrian Canada (EC) Silver or Gold competitions. The medical information is only used to reference whether the individual has a medical impairment that could possibly qualify under the classification system. Each athlete must have an eligible underlying health condition leading to an impairment that is permanent and can be measured objectively.

This medical information should provide the results of medical tests and investigations that demonstrate that the athlete has a diagnosis of a medical condition that leads to their presenting physical impairments.

Examples of documentation required:

Example 1: a person with Multiple Sclerosis will have had various tests, for example MRI scans, during the investigation to find the cause of the symptoms. The results of the tests and a report from the neurologist clearly stating the full diagnosis is required.

Example 2: a person with peripheral nerve damage and/or muscle weakness or paralysis is required to provide results of nerve conduction tests and other relevant investigations including a summary report from a neurologist or a neurophysiologist.

This medical information should provide the results of tests which prove that the athlete has a diagnosis of a medical condition that gives him/her the presenting physical symptoms.

It is **unnecessary** to supply a letter stating the symptoms, such as weakness, pain, lack of sensation, inability to walk or perform certain actions etc. These limitations are assessed in the athlete evaluation during the EC para dressage classification assessment.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY USING BLOCK LETTERS. Attach a separate sheet or report if there is insufficient space.



APPENDIX 5 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 3 of 5)

Applicant Name:	
Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition/s):	
Diagnosis (please list presenting health conditions; do not list symptoms):	

Test results to support the above diagnosis, i.e medical diagnosis report or physical examination results (e.g. ASIA scale for spinal cord injury, X-ray report, MRI, CT, muscle biopsy, nerve condition). Attach if possible.



APPENDIX 5 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 4 of 5)

Primary impairment(s) arising from Medical Diagnosis:

<input type="checkbox"/> Impaired muscle power	<input type="checkbox"/> Ataxia	<input type="checkbox"/> Leg length difference
<input type="checkbox"/> Impaired passive range of motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Athetosis	<input type="checkbox"/> Limb deficiency/loss
<input type="checkbox"/> Short stature (height: ___ cm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertonia	
Health Condition is: <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Stable <input type="checkbox"/> Progressive <input type="checkbox"/> Fluctuating		
<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital (birth) Date of the athlete injury: _____ (DD/ MM /YYYY) Classification can only be conducted at a minimum of one (1) year following a neurological injury, peripheral nerve injury or spinal cord injury.		
Date of most recent surgery _____ (DD/ MM /YYYY) Classification can only be conducted at a minimum of three (3) months following an orthopedic injury that did not require surgery or minimum of nine (9) months following an orthopedic surgery.		

ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS (i.e. EPILEPSY, DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, HAEMOPHILIA) SHOULD BE NOTED ABOVE

The medical diagnosis form is only used to reference whether the individual has a medical impairment, which could possibly qualify under the classification system. The medical diagnosis provided is not used in the determination of the athlete’s classification. Athletes are assessed by accredited “Classifiers” and are given a “Grade” based on their functional abilities in areas such as: muscle power, joint range and coordination from the classification exam, also referred to as a “bench test”.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE FOLLOWED THIS PATIENT FOR _____ YEARS AND CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PATIENT HAS THE DIAGNOSIS SPECIFIED ABOVE.

Physician Name:			
Licence Number:			
Physician Address:			
Physician Signature		Date:	

**Information disclosed on this form will be remain confidential and is securely stored at the EC office.*



APPENDIX 6 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR COMMANDER ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

(Page 1 of 4)

Athletes who wish to have a commander to read their tests must apply for permission to do so clearly stating the reason and providing supporting medical evidence from a psychologist or neuropsychologist describing the extent of their memory loss or intellectual impairment.

Athletes who wish to have a commander to read their dressage tests must apply for permission to do so by completing the following:

- Athlete's reason for request
- Validation letter completed by the athlete's psychologist or neuropsychologist.

1. Athlete's reason for request:

In the space below, please clearly state your reason for your request for a commander.

*** If additional space is required, please feel free to attached letter to your application.



APPENDIX 6

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR COMMANDER ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

(Page 2 of 4)

2. Request for Commander - Validation Letter

The following information must be provided to Athlete's psychologist or neuropsychologist in order for their psychologist or neuropsychologist to understand what the athlete is requesting for the commander adaptive equipment:

To ensure fairness and equity to all who are competing, those Athletes requesting an exemption to the rule pertaining to commanders are required to produce verification from a psychologist of a level of permanent memory Impairment that would impact their ability to remember the sequence of movements required for the duration of the Dressage test. Whilst the Dressage test is completed in a competitive environment, all Athletes within the Competition complete the test under the same conditions.

It is requested that a Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS-IV) test (or similar) is conducted as part of a comprehensive assessment in order to substantiate this Athlete's request for a commander. Note that a brief report of assessment may be requested by EC's Classification Panel in order to review the results. This report would be kept by EC as confidential documentation. Your time in assisting this Athlete is greatly appreciated.

A dressage test comprises a sequence of between eight to 19 "movements" (depending on the Grade at which the athlete competes), which are to be ridden at designated points around a dressage arena (20m x 40m or 20m x 60m). The movements are carried out at a walk and/or trot and/or canter and involve moving from one pace to another while completing the movements.

Below is an excerpt from the Grade I Novice Dressage Test and the Grade IV Novice Dressage Test as examples of what an athlete may be required to learn prior to competing and then remember for the period they are competing in front of the judges.



APPENDIX 6 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR COMMANDER ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

(Page 3 of 4)

Grade I Novice Test		
1.	A X	Enter in medium walk Halt, immobility, salute. Proceed in medium walk
2.	C HXF FA	Track left Free walk Medium walk
3.	A X	Down centre line 10m circle right
4.	X	10m circle left
5.	XC C	Down centre line Track right

Grade IV Novice Test		
1.	A X	Enter in working trot Halt, immobility, salute. Proceed in collected trot
2.	C B	Track right Half circle right 10m to X Return diagonally to the track at M
3.	MCHE E	Working trot Half circle left 10m to X Return diagonally to the track at H
4.	CX XA	Half 20m circle right Half 20m circle left
5.	A FXH HC	Working trot Change rein in medium trot Working trot

_____ (*insert athlete name*) has been asked to provide you, for your information, with a sample copy of a full dressage test they would be required to learn specific to their Grade.

The Athlete has ample opportunity (possibly weeks or months) to learn and practice the movements required in the dressage test prior to competing. During a competition, perhaps over two or more days, the competitor may be required to ride up to four dressage tests (three set tests and one optional Freestyle test). The nominated dressage tests are used consistently at each level with the athlete only competing at one level. The only exception to this is if the athlete competes in a Freestyle competition in addition to the set tests. In this case, they have designed their own sequence of movements and then ride them to their chosen music.

_____ (*insert athlete name*) is classified as Grade _____ (*insert athlete Grade*) and has requested the use of a “commander” – a person to call out the movements in sequence to the athlete as they compete.



APPENDIX 6

PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR COMMANDER ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

(Page 4 of 4)

I hereby certify that I have followed (Athlete's name) _____ as a patient for _____ years and certify that the above named Athlete requires a commander for dressage competition based on evidence that confirms their level of memory impairment would impact their ability to complete a full dressage test by memory.

Psychologist Name:	
License Number:	
Psychologist Address:	
Psychologist Signature:	
Date :	



APPENDIX 7 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

(Page 1 of 3)

Please complete this form using a black pen and print clearly.

Please reference the Equestrian Canada (EC) Para Dressage Classification Procedures, Section 7.9 EC Para Dressage Classification Protests and Appeals Guidelines.

Athletes who wish to protest the decision of their allocated Grade shall have 21 days from the date on which they received their EC para dressage classification results. The protest must be submitted in writing to the EC Para Dressage Department.

Classification Hub Event Details	
Name of Classification Hub:	
Date:	
Location:	

Protest Submitted By	
Name:	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Athlete Details		
Name of Athlete:		
Classification of Athlete:	Grade:	Profile:
Classification Date:		
Name of First Classifier:		
Name of Second Classifier:		



APPENDIX 7 PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

(Page 2 of 3)

**Clearly state reason for protest, only one (1) protest per form. Use a separate sheet if necessary.
Please provide and attach any evidence and/or documents in support of the protest.**



ANNEX I PARA DRESSAGE RULES

Reference Para Dressage FEI Rules – Annex IV Adaptive equipment s summary [LINK](#)

COMPENSATING AIDS FOR PARA DRESSAGE																
Profile-Specific Compensating Aids																
Profile	Grade	Raised pommel or cantle	Seat saver	Hard (firm) hand hold	2 whips	Foot reins	Looped or ladder reins	Connecting rein bar	Reins through ring on saddle	Strap, stirrup leather to girth	Strap, stirrup iron to girth	No stirrups	Velcro strap mid-thigh	Use of sign language	Callers	Commander
1-6	I/II	*	*	*	*		*			*	*	*	*			
7	I	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
8	III	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
9	II	*	*	*	*		*			*	*	*	*			
10a/b	II/III	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*			
11a/b	II/III		*	*	*					*	*	*	*			
12a/b	I/II		*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
13	I	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
14	III		*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
15	IV		*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			
16	V							*	*							
17a	III	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
17b	IV	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
18a	III	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
18b	IV	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
19a	IV	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
19b	V	*		*	*					*	*	*	*			
20	V				*					*	*	*	*			
21	IV				*	*	*		*							
22	V				*	*	*		*							
23	V				*	*	*		*							
24	V				*	*	*	*	*							
25	IV				*	*	*		*							
26a	IV				*	*	*		*	*						
26b	V				*	*	*		*	*						
27	III	*	*	*	*			*			*					
28	IV	*	*	*	*			*		*	*	*	*			
31a/b/32	II/III	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*(31)			
36/37a	IV/V														*	*
38	N/A														*	*
39	N/A														*	*
On Master List		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Standard Compensating Aids
 *Not to be listed on the FEI Classification Master List
 Salute with head only
 Sitting or rising trot
 Gloves
 Spurs
 Saddle-any type
 Soft hand hold
 Deep saddle
 Elastic bands on stirrups
 Enclosed stirrups
 Magnetic stirrups
 1 whip
 Breast plate and/or neck strap
 Joined rein on double bridle
 Elastic inserts in reins
 Safety vest (including inflatable)
 Knotted Reins/Rein Stops

Non-Standard Compensating Aids.
 These are aids or equipment not described in the table on the left. The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid approved by the FEI Compensating Aids Panel. See application form on FEI website. *Must be listed on the FEI Classification Master List once approved.



Canada 