



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES**

2025-03-12



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Dear Athlete,

Thank you for your interest in Equestrian Canada (EC) para dressage classification.

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

In order to receive classification, athletes must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) as outlined in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules.

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

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, via e-mail at [jgoodfellow@equestrian.ca](mailto: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

Para dressage provides athletes with a physical or visual impairment the opportunity to compete against other athletes with similar abilities. Athletes are classified and given a “Grade” based on their functional ability and 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 testing of athletes by a certified physiotherapist or medical physician who evaluates either muscle strength, coordination, range of movement or a combination thereof throughout the athlete’s body using a standardized classification system. EC classifies/assesses 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 aids during competition, which will be listed on the athlete’s classification profile. The purpose of compensating 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 compensating aids are varied and can be unique to an athlete, they should never provide an advantage.

Many para dressage athletes also compete alongside able-bodied competitors in EC sanctioned competitions.

All athletes with physical or visual impairment who intend to enter EC Silver and Gold competitions must be classified by an EC Para Dressage Classifier.

## 2. EC Para Dressage Classifiers

An EC Para Dressage Classifier (“Classifier”) is a physiotherapist or medical doctor who has qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all or specific parts of an athlete evaluation. They must be experienced in working with people with impairments and have a clear understanding of the para dressage system of classification.

A Classifier is accredited by EC to conduct evaluations for athletes who are ready to compete at EC Silver and Gold level competitions.

Classifiers must meet EC requirements to maintain accreditation every two (2) years and must fulfill competencies and performance outcomes as outlined in the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules.

In addition to the above, Classifiers must have the ability to:

- Describe the classification process clearly and concisely and make sure the athlete fully understands the process.
- Ensure the athlete has fully understood EC’s classification processes and procedures.
- Ensure the athlete is aware that not all conditions are classifiable and the reasons why.



- Deal appropriately with sensitive information and always exhibit the highest standard of integrity, ensuring that decisions are not to be made upon improper influence.
- Show respect and keep all information related to an athlete's classification file confidential.
- Ensure all communication prior to and after classification is driven through EC.
- Actively participate in EC's classification program and act as an advocate for the development of para dressage in Canada.

### 3. Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group

The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group is an ad hoc group established to develop classification standards and policies at the direction of the EC Senior Manager, Dressage Olympic/Paralympic Program, under the accountability of the EC Director of High Performance. They are responsible for reviewing and approving eligible athlete classification requests and reviewing medical dispensation requests for Bronze level competitions.

### 4. 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 their impairment. For some athletes, further medical and diagnostic documentation may be required by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group. The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group 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 written by a relevant medical specialist (for example, neurologist).
- A clear statement of diagnosis that provides detailed information as to 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 as relevant to the health condition and may include cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) examinations, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, evoked potential (EP) results or a muscle biopsy.

It is recognized that some athletes are required to produce substantial medical evidence, which requires additional effort.

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

For all athletes, failure to provide the required medical documentation or documentation that is not consistent with the outcome of the athlete evaluation will result in the athlete evaluation being incomplete. All medical documentation will be handled with utmost care and confidentiality and will be stored by EC.



## Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

- An athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant MIC for that sport.
- The FEI has set MIC to ensure that an athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- Classification for para-equestrian sport is selective and not intended to be inclusive of all health conditions and impairments.
- MIC applicable to each sport and the process by which an athlete complies with MIC is to be assessed by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group as part of an evaluation session.
- Any athlete who does not comply with the MIC for a sport must be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- An athlete must satisfy the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group that they have an eligible impairment.

The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group will then assess whether an athlete meets the MIC. This takes place as part of a pre-evaluation prior to participating in the classification evaluation.

## Eligible Impairment Types, Assessment Methodology and Minimum Impairment Criteria

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

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions	Assessment Methodology	Minimum Impairment Criteria
<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>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle power</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of power, in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>
<p><b>Limb Deficiency</b></p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle power and range of movement</li> <li>• Stump length</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of power, or range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>



Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions	Assessment Methodology	Minimum Impairment Criteria
<p><b>Leg Length Difference</b> Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Leg Length Difference include: dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle power and range of movement</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of power, or range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>
<p><b>Short Stature</b> Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle power and range of movement</li> <li>• Height</li> <li>• Age</li> </ul>	<p>The FEI MIC standard is greater than 15% loss of power, range or coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>
<p><b>Hypertonia</b> 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>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>
<p><b>Ataxia</b> Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination</li> </ul>	<p>Coordination greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>
<p><b>Athetosis</b> Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>



Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions	Assessment Methodology	Minimum Impairment Criteria
<p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b> Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of movement</li> </ul>	<p>Greater than 15% loss of range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include but are not limited to the following:

- Chronic 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.

A number of medical diagnoses and underlying health conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not underlying health conditions. Non-eligible health conditions also include chronic pain, fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome, fatigue, joint hypermobility and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome

An athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the MIC for para-equestrian sport must be allocated Grade NE in accordance with the provisions of the FEI Para-Equestrian Classification Rules, Article 18.

## 5. Levels of Classification for Canadian Athletes

### 5.1 National (EC) Classification

National classification is provided through appointed Classifiers and enables eligible athletes to be assigned a Grade and to compete at EC Silver and Gold level competitions using compensating aids. The national classification process (including the issuance of an EC athlete classification profile) is administrated through EC.





Athletes who compete at the EC Bronze level do not require classification but must use the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate to identify any compensating aids that they use to compete. This form must be signed by the athlete's medical doctor and coach.

Athletes who are classified can compete in able-body dressage competitions and are allowed to use their approved compensating aids listed on the EC Para Dressage Compensating Aids Master List.

## 5.2 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. Athletes interested in receiving international classification must be actively competing in EC Gold competitions.

International classification supersedes any EC classification; therefore, once an athlete is classified at the international level, they must adhere to that classification for EC competition purposes, as well. For example, if an athlete is classified as a Grade III athlete through EC but becomes classified as Grade IV by the FEI, they must now compete in accordance with the Grade IV classification at EC competitions. Additionally, if an athlete is deemed to have an impairment that is not eligible or does not meet MIC and is allocated NE status, the athlete will not be eligible to compete in EC sanctioned para dressage competitions.

## 6. National Para Dressage Classification Requirements

To be eligible for national para dressage classification, athletes must:

- Meet the MIC as outlined in the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules.
- Be currently in good standing with EC.
- Be 12 years old at the beginning of the calendar year or receive approval from the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group to receive classification if younger than 12 years old.

It is recommended but not mandatory to receive classification at the Bronze level; however, early classification can identify talent and mark a clear pathway towards international competition. Classification is mandatory for para dressage athletes to compete at Silver and Gold competitions.

## 7. National Para Dressage Classification Process

### 7.1 Classification Application

- To receive classification, athletes must submit the following completed applicable documentation **at least six (6) months before** their first EC Silver or Gold level competition:
  - 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 Classification Request for Commander Compensating Aid



- For athletes actively competing, the cost of classification is \$150.00, in addition to any travel expenses incurred by the athlete for attending a classification appointment.
- For athletes not competing, the cost of classification is \$225.00, in addition to any travel expenses incurred by the athlete for attending a classification appointment.
- The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group will review the Certificate of Diagnosis form and confirm whether an athlete qualifies for classification. Only Classifiers on the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group are able to determine whether an athlete meets the MIC for a particular classification.
- Classification applications are reviewed bi-monthly by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group. Classification sessions are scheduled based on the Classifier's availability or through scheduled Classification Hubs. Given the low numbers of Classifiers across Canada, it is not always feasible for athletes to be classified near their hometown. At times, athletes must decide if they wish to travel for classification or wait to be classified at a later date when there are more athletes in their area to be classified. The athlete may choose to pay to have two (2) Classifiers travel to them and pay for all expenses. Payment for classification is not processed until a classification date has been assigned.

## 7.2 Classification Timelines Following Injury

- The athlete's medical doctor must state 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.
- Classification can only be conducted at a minimum of three (3) months following an orthopedic injury that did not require surgery or a minimum of nine (9) months following an orthopedic surgery.
- In exceptional circumstances and with supporting documentation, the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group may recommend classification earlier or later than the above stated timelines.

## 7.3 Athlete Classification Evaluation

The athlete classification evaluation is conducted by two (2) Classifiers that are appointed by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group. One (1) Classifier may be a retired EC Para Dressage Classifier and can act a scribe for the classification session.

There may be exceptional circumstances where it is necessary to carry out evaluations for classification separately, for example, limited access to Classifiers within a province/territory. In such cases, the request for classification should be made by the athlete providing the reason why the evaluations must be done separately. The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group will then approve or not approve the request based on the information provided and, if approved, EC will liaise with the athlete as to where and when the evaluations will occur.

Classifiers may seek third party expertise of any nature if it is considered an asset in completing the process of athlete evaluation.

- The athlete must bring one (1) person with them to the evaluation. It is highly recommended that the athlete brings their coach so that the Classifier may discuss the athlete's impairment with both the athlete and coach.
- The athlete's representative shall not speak during the evaluation process unless directly addressed by the Classifiers to preserve the dignity of the athlete.



- The athlete must attend evaluation with all relevant medical documentation, including but not limited to the Certificate of Diagnosis, additional medical reports, medical records and diagnostic information that relates to the athlete's impairment. Where possible, this information should be provided in advance of the evaluation to assist in determining eligibility for classification.
- The Classifier **will not watch** the athlete riding before or during the classification, as the Classifier's role is to assess the athlete's impairment and **not** the athlete's ability on an equine.
- The athlete may be asked to submit video footage or photos after the classification to support profile determination.

#### 7.4 After the Exam

- Two (2) to three (3) weeks after the exam, the athlete will receive confirmation from EC of their functional profile and Grade, verified and approved by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group.
- The medical documentation submitted by the athlete is reviewed by the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group. The athlete 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 that states their functional profile, their Grade and the compensating aids allowed, as applicable. The athlete will receive one of the following Grade Statuses:
  - **NEW (N):** An athlete who has never undergone a para dressage classification must complete evaluation prior to competing, unless specified otherwise. They will be designated Grade Status N and will be assigned a review date on their classification profile.
  - **REVIEW (R):** Grade Status R indicates an athlete who has undergone classification and has obtained a Grade for national competition but may require further evaluation according to the classification rules of the FEI Classification Manual and will be assigned a fixed review date on their classification profile.
  - **REVIEW WITH A FIXED DATE (FRD):** An athlete may be designated Grade Status FRD if the Classification Panel believes that further athlete evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
  - **CONFIRMED (C):** Grade Status C indicates an athlete who has undergone classification and has obtained a Grade for national competition and does not require further evaluation.
- It is the responsibility of the athlete to arrange for the reclassification within the appropriate time period. Failure to do so may mean the athlete is unable to compete.
- A classification profile is required at each show and **must** be carried at all times for immediate presentation upon request.
- Current EC Sport Licence Holders can print a copy of their classification profile through their [MyEC](#) account.

#### 7.5 Classification Profile Review Date

- 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 six (6) 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 Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group 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 Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group.



## 7.6 EC Para Dressage Classification Master List

- EC must maintain a classification master list of athletes, which must include the athlete's name, gender, Grade and Grade Status.
- The EC Para Dressage Classification 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 Classification 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 Classification 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.

## 7.7 Classification Files

- Active classification files will remain confidential and are securely stored 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 classification session is not assigned within the year, the file will be destroyed.
- Expired classification files will be destroyed two (2) years after the date of expiry of classification.
- Inactive classification files will be destroyed two (2) years after last date of correspondence with athlete.

## 7.8 Compensating Aids

Athletes who wish to add or amend a compensating aid on the EC Para Dressage Classification Master List must submit a request with rationale through EC to be reviewed. The decision as to whether a compensating aid may be added or amended is at the discretion of the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group.

## 7.9 Classification Timelines

An athlete may only be classified once every 12 months. However, athletes who experience a significant change to their medical diagnosis or condition within 12 months of their previous classification may request consideration for a reclassification sooner than every 12 months. Such a request for reclassification must be made to the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group.

The Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group may, in the exercise of its discretion, permit such a reclassification to occur only if it is satisfied that:

- 1) A change in the athlete's medical diagnosis or condition has occurred;
- 2) Such a change is significant; and,
- 3) The athlete's request for reclassification consists of credible and reliable evidence (which is the athlete's responsibility to provide), including appropriately signed and well-documented material that clearly supports the athlete's contentions with regard to (1) and (2) above.



## 7.10 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 is made.

“*Appeal*” refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been 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 Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group, the EC High Performance Director and one (1) retired Classifier. If the Chair of the Para Dressage Classification Advisory Group was involved in the original classification that is being protested, 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 being Protested. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An athlete’s Grade may only be Protested once.
- c. A Protest may not be made in respect of an athlete who has been allocated Grade NE.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. The fee for the Protest reclassification is \$150.00. All fees (including travel) for the reclassification are at the expense of the athlete.
- h. 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.



## **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 (PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT)

(Page 1 of 2)

*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

**Name of Coach:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of Riding Centre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classifier Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Classification Profile Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classification Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_



# APPENDIX 1- PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM (PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT)

(Page 2 of 2)

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	Results	Competition Level





# 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 is available to athletes who are actively competing at the EC Bronze level and are ready to progress to Silver and Gold. Totally Blind (B1) athletes who have no sight in both eyes (visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60) and Partial Sight (B2) athletes (visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 inclusive and/or visual field that is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees) are all eligible to be classified.

**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

**Name of Coach:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of Riding Centre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classifier Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **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	Results	Competition Level



## APPENDIX 3-

# PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PAYMENT FORM

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

New classification (\$150.00)       New classification – Not actively competing (\$225.00)

Re-classification (\$150.00)

**Total Payment Included: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard    Visa    Money Order    Cheque Enclosed (payable to EQUINE CANADA)

**Full Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**CSV Number (three-digit number printed on back of card):** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Payment for classification will not be processed until your classification date has been assigned.*



## APPENDIX 4 - PARA DRESSAGE CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

(Page 1 of 2)

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

I understand that I am applying for classification as an athlete within the para-equestrian system.

The resulting classification is subject to review at any time particularly with certain diagnoses known to be variable in presentation.

For an athlete to be eligible to compete in Equestrian Canada (EC) competitions, the athlete must be classified by two (2) authorized, accredited EC Para Dressage Classifiers (“Classifiers”). The Classifiers will maintain the confidentiality of the personal/medical information given in the course of classification.

Failure to cooperate with the Classifiers or failure to complete a classification will lead to ineligibility to compete in EC sanctioned competitions.

If cooperation with the classification is impaired by pain, I have the option of continuing with the classification despite the pain or discontinuing the classification, therefore becoming ineligible. I understand that every attempt will be made to minimize discomfort, but that the Classifiers cannot be held liable for any pain and suffering caused by the testing.

The following is an agreement by myself, the athlete, to undergo a functional classification test including a medical (bench) test.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to be classified for EC Silver or Gold competitions.  
*(please print full name)*

Have you ever applied for classification previously? YES / NO *(circle one)*

If yes, what was the decision? \_\_\_\_\_ Who performed your classification? \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that the EC classification process involves a medical (bench) test and observation at any time. I understand that to be classified I must be willing to take part in all portions of the tests and cooperate fully with the Classifiers.

I understand that to perform the medical (bench) test, the Classifiers must examine all movements and muscle groups, from the neck to the toes. I agree to undertake these tests and I agree that the Classifiers cannot be held liable for any pain or suffering I may experience in the course of the test.

I, the athlete, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the policies and procedures of national classification as defined in these EC Para Dressage Classification Procedures.



# APPENDIX 4 - PARA DRESSAGE CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

(Page 2 of 2)

**Athlete Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, the coach, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the policies and procedures of national classification as defined in these EC Para Dressage Classification Procedures.

**Coach Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*The allocation of a profile of functional ability and classification for para dressage does not mean that the athlete's health is considered good enough to take part in sport. The athlete's own medical doctor should be consulted if the health and condition are in doubt.*

A parent or guardian's signature must accompany the Para Dressage Consent for Classification form if the athlete is 18 years of age or under at the time of signing. This signature is in addition to and not in place of the athlete or coach's signature on the form.

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (please print full name), who was born on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and is therefore a minor at the time of signing the consent for classification form with Equestrian Canada.

I recognize that the athlete derives benefits from signing this form. I also recognize that the athlete assumes obligations and I further recognize Equestrian Canada's desire and need to enforce these obligations.

I, the parent, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the policies and procedures of EC para dressage classification as defined in these EC Para Dressage Classification Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Name (please print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Witness**



# 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.

**Not all athletes who have an impairment are eligible for classification.** To be classified, athletes must have a recognized medical condition that causes impairment and that can be measured objectively.

### ATHLETE'S DETAILS

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

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province/Territory/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (DD/ MM /YYYY)

**Gender:** Female  Male  X

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 for 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 Impairment that leads to permanent and verifiable activity limitation that 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 bench tests during the EC para dressage classification assessment.

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





# APPENDIX 5-

## PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 3 of 5)

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis (please list presenting health conditions; do not list symptoms):**

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**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.**

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# APPENDIX 5- PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 4 of 5)

**Primary impairment(s) arising from Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition):**

<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**



# APPENDIX 5-

## PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

(Page 5 of 5)

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Licence Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*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 COMPENSATING AID

(Page 1 of 3)

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.



## **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 compensating aid:

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 COMPENSATING AID

(Page 2 of 3)

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 COMPENSATING AID

(Page 3 of 3)

### PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST FOR COMMANDER COMPENSATING AID

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psychologist Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psychologist Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**License Number:** \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 evidence and/or documents in support of the protest.**



# APPENDIX 7 - PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

(Page 3 of 3)

<b>Received By</b>	
<i>To be completed by the Protest Panel</i>	
<b>Date Received:</b>	
<b>Protest Fee: \$150.00</b> The fee is non-refundable, regardless of protest outcome. <input type="checkbox"/> Protest fee received	
<b>Protest Accepted:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If accepted, date and time for Protest Panel Evaluation: <b>Date:</b> _____ <b>Time:</b> _____  <input type="checkbox"/> No        If declined, reason for not accepting:
Decision of Protest Panel (use a separate sheet if necessary):	
<b>Protest Panel</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>



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