

Approved by  
FIAS Executive Committee  
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**CLASSIFICATION RULES OF SAMBO  
for the Blind and Visually Impaired**



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## **PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1. Applicable Scope**

#### **General Provisions**

1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to herein as the "Classification Rules".

1.2 The Classification Rules were adopted by International SAMBO Federation (hereinafter FIAS).

1.3 These Classification Rules incorporate Annexes. The Annexes form an integral part of the Classification Rules.

1.4 These Classification Rules form part of the FIAS Sports Rules and Regulations.

1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of classification forms designed to assist in the evaluation of SAMBO Athletes (Sambists). Classification forms may be subject to modification by the FIAS if necessary.

#### **Classification**

1.6 Classification is carried out in order to:

- a) determine who is eligible to compete in SAMBO for the Blind;
- b) minimize the effect of visual impairment on athletic performance.

#### **Application**

1.7 These Classification Rules apply to all blind SAMBO Athletes, Coaches, Support Personnel and Classifiers who are registered and / or licensed by FIAS, and / or participate in any events or competitions organized, authorized, or recognized by FIAS.

1.8 These Classification Rules should be read and applied in conjunction with all other FIAS Rules. In the event of a conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

#### **International Classification**

1.9 FIAS allows an Athlete to participate in an International Competition only if this Sambist has received a Sport Class (other than the Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE)) and if the Athlete has been assigned Sports Class Status in compliance with these Classification Rules.

1.10 FIAS provides an opportunity to assign Sambists a Sports Class and assign a Sports Class Status in compliance with these Classification Rules at recognized competitions (or other sports events specified by FIAS). FIAS provides information to National Federations on recognized FIAS competitions and sports events in advance.

#### **Interpretation and the IPC Code Referencing**

1.11 References to an "article" mean an article of these Classification Rules, references to an "Annex" mean an Annex to these Classification Rules.

1.12 References to a "sport" and a "kind of sport" in these Classification Rules refer to the discipline of SAMBO for the Blind, as part of the SAMBO sport.

1.13 The Annexes to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules. The Annexes to these Classification Rules and the FIAS Classification Rules may be amended, supplemented and / or replaced.

1.14 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.

1.15 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text, but in a manner that complies with the 2015 International Paralympic Committee (hereinafter IPC) Athletes Classification Code and IPC International Standards.

## **Article 2. Rights and Responsibilities of Sambists, Sambist Support Personnel and Classification Personnel**

2.1 FIAS timely informs National Federations and classification experts of the requirements of these Classification Rules.

2.2 The rights and responsibilities of Sambists include to:

- a) be aware of and comply with all applicable rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) participate in good faith in the evaluation;
- c) ensure that FIAS is provided with adequate information related to health conditions and the presence or absence of Eligible Visual Impairments;
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
- e) actively participate in the process of education, as well as in research on classification through exchanging personal experience and knowledge.

2.3 The rights and responsibilities of Sambist Support Personnel include to:

- a) be aware of and comply with all applicable rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence on Sambist values and behavior to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification systems;
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

2.4 The rights and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- a) have a complete working knowledge of all applicable rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of classification systems, including participation in education and research activities;
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

## **PART II. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

### **Article 3. Classification personnel**

3.1 Classification personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. FIAS appoints a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom plays a key role in organizing, implementing, and administrating the FIAS classification.

#### **Head of Classification**

3.2 FIAS must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of the FIAS Classification matters.

3.3 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, FIAS may appoint another person or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification.

3.4 The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier.

3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and / or delegate responsibilities for solving specific tasks to designated Classifiers or other persons authorized by FIAS.

3.6 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and / or Chief Classifier.

#### **Classifiers**

3.7 A Classifier is a person authorized as an official and certified by FIAS to conduct some or all components of Sambist Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

### **Chief Classifiers**

3.8 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific sports event (competition) which is determined by the FIAS, in order to perform the following tasks:

3.8.1 identify those Sambists who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;

3.8.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure the proper application of these Classification Rules during Classification;

3.8.3 manage protests in consultation with FIAS;

3.8.4 liaise with the corresponding organizers of a sports event (competition) to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at this event (competition).

3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific duties and / or transfer the responsibility for solving specific tasks to other Classifiers, or other qualified employees, or FIAS representatives, and / or relevant qualified persons in the organizing committee of a sports event (competition).

### **Trainee Classifier**

3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is undergoing training under the FIAS Classifier Training Program.

3.11 FIAS may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Sambist Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, in order to develop the classifier competencies.

## **Article 4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification**

4.1 A Classifier is authorized to act as a Classifier if this Classifier has been certified by FIAS as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.

4.2 FIAS shall provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and / or maintain Classifier Competencies.

4.3 FIAS shall specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a transparent and accessible manner. The Classifier Competencies must include the following:

4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;

4.3.2 an understanding of the sport for which they seek certification in order to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport;

4.3.3 an understanding of the IPC Code and the IPC International Standards;

4.3.4 professional qualifications, level of experience, skills and / or competencies for performing the functions of the FIAS Classifier, according to which Classifiers should:

a) be a certified ophthalmologist (only to work as part of a group of Classifiers to solve the issues of medical evaluation of visual function);

b) have a coaching background or relevant qualification that includes the required level of anatomical, biomechanical and sports knowledge, as well as knowledge in the field of typhlopedagogy and typhlopsychology which the FIAS at its discretion finds acceptable.

4.4 FIAS establishes the rules for a Classifier's Certification process, whereby the Classifier Competencies are evaluated. This process must include:

4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;

4.4.2 quality evaluation for the period of certification;

4.4.3 a process for handling unsatisfactory work results, including options for restoration and / or revocation of certification;

4.4.4 rules for conducting the periodic certification of Classifiers.

4.5 FIAS indicates entry-level criteria applicable to persons wishing to become Classifiers. FIAS provides entry-level education to Classifiers.

4.6 FIAS provides continuing education to Classifiers for the purposes of primary Certification and Recertification.

4.7 FIAS may stipulate that a Classifier is not entitled to evaluate certain capabilities of an Athlete, as well as have other restrictions:

4.7.1 a limitation on the stages of evaluation in which a Classifier is authorized to act as a Classifier;

4.7.2 the maximum time that a Classifier certificate is valid;

- 4.7.3 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
- 4.7.4 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if FIAS fails to ascertain that the Classifier obtains the required Classifier Competencies;
- 4.7.5 that a Classifier may regain their Classifier Certification if FIAS ascertains that the Classifier obtains the required Classifier Competencies.

### **Article 5. Classifier Code of Conduct**

- 5.1 The integrity of the FIAS Classification depends on the conduct of the Classification Personnel. In this regard, a number of professional conduct standards have been adopted, referred to as the "Classifier Code of Conduct".
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct ([https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/130625114507663\\_IPC+Code+of+Ethics.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/130625114507663_IPC+Code+of+Ethics.pdf)).
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any member of Classification Personnel carries out actions contrary to the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to FIAS.
- 5.4 If FIAS receives such a report, it will investigate it and, if necessary, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5 FIAS has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and / or potential conflict of interest.

## **PART III. ATHLETE EVALUATION**

### **Article 6. General Provisions**

- 6.1 These Classification Rules establish the evaluation process, stages, criteria and methodology, in accordance with which Sambists will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation includes a number of stages; these Classification Rules include provisions relating to:
- 6.2.1 an evaluation of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Visual Impairment for the given sport;
- 6.2.2 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute specific tasks and engage in sports.

### **Article 7. Visual Impairments**

- 7.1 Any Sambist wishing to compete in a sport regulated by FIAS must have an Eligible Impairment of their visual organs, and such an Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2 The Annexes to these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Visual Impairments that a Sambist must have in order to compete in a sport regulated by FIAS.
- 7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed in the Annexes is referred to as a "Non-Eligible" Impairment.

### **Article 8. Evaluation of Eligible Visual Impairment**

- 8.1 FIAS determines whether or not a Sambist has an Eligible Visual Impairment.
- 8.1.1 In order to ensure that a Sambist has an Eligible Impairment and can take part in competitions in this kind of sport, FIAS may request information on health condition from any Athlete.
- 8.1.2 The means by which FIAS determines that an individual Sambist has an Eligible Visual Impairment is at the sole discretion of FIAS. FIAS may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious, and therefore does not require any specific evidence.
- 8.1.3 If during the determination of whether or not a Sambist has an Eligible Visual Impairment FIAS becomes aware that the Sambist has other health issues, and at the same time considers that the impact of that health condition may be unsafe for this Athlete during the competition or for other Sambists, FIAS may designate the athlete, in case they can take part in competitions, as Classification Not Completed Sport Class Status (CNC)

in accordance with these Classification Rules. In such cases, FIAS clarifies the reasons for its designation to the corresponding National Federation.

8.2 A Sambist is obliged to provide FIAS with information about the health condition and the characteristic features of the Visual Impairment, which is submitted in accordance with the following procedure:

8.2.1 The National Federation, upon completing the registration of an Athlete, must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form;

8.2.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English, dated and signed by a certified health care professional;

8.2.3 If necessary, auxiliary diagnostic information should be attached to the Medical Diagnostics Form.

8.3 FIAS may require an Athlete to resubmit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive diagnostic information) if FIAS at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostics Form and / or diagnostic information incomplete or inconsistent.

8.4 If FIAS requires an Athlete to provide diagnostic information, it may appoint a Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission to consider the information received.

8.5 The process by which a Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission is formed and considers diagnostic information is as follows:

8.5.1 The Head of Classification shall notify the corresponding National Federation that diagnostic information must be provided by the National Federation on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification gives an explanation of what diagnostic information is required, and purposes for which it is required for.

8.5.2 The Head of Classification specifies the time period for the preparation of diagnostic information.

8.5.3 The Head of Classification shall appoint a Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission. The Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission must sign confidentiality undertakings.

8.5.4 If the Head of Classification considers that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to evaluate the diagnostic information, he or she will not participate in the review of the diagnostic information, but will assist the work of the Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission.

8.5.5 Wherever possible, all references to an individual Athlete and the source(s) of the diagnostic information should be withheld from the Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission. Each member of the Commission reviews the diagnostic information and decides whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Visual Impairment.

8.5.6 If the Commission concludes that the Sambist has an Eligible Visual Impairment, the athlete will be permitted to complete the Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.

8.5.7 If the Commission fails to ascertain that the Athlete has an Eligible Visual Impairment, the Head of Classification shall provide a decision to this effect in writing to the corresponding National Federation. The National Federation will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide additional diagnostic information to the Commission for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification shall inform the National Federation.

8.5.8 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification sends a letter with the final decision to the National Federation.

8.5.9 The Visual Impairment Eligibility Commission may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is a member of the Commission, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the diagnostic information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Visual Impairment.

8.6 FIAS may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

## **Article 9. Eligible Visual Impairments**

9.1 A Sambist who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Visual Impairment for the sport.

9.2 FIAS has set Eligible Visual Impairment criteria in order to ensure that a Sambist having these impairments is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

9.3 The Annexes to these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria applicable to the sport, and the process according to which an athlete's impairment must be evaluated by the Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.



9.4 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria for the sport, must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

9.5 A Classification Panel must evaluate whether or not a Sambist complies with the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria for the sport. This will be held as part of an Evaluation Session. Before taking part in an Evaluation Session, a Sambist must first make sure that FIAS makes provisions for their kind of impairments.

9.6 In relation to the use of adaptive equipment (specialized helmets), FIAS takes into account the extent to which the use of adaptive equipment might affect Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and do the sport.

## **Article 10. Sport Class**

10.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by FIAS in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the influence of a Visual Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

10.1.1 An Athlete who does not comply with the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria for the sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport in accordance with these Classification Rules.

10.1.2 An athlete who complies with the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria for the sport must be allocated a Sport Class in accordance with provisions of these Classification Rules.

10.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by FIAS, the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Visual Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

10.2 The Annexes to these Classification Rules specify the evaluation methodology and evaluation criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of a Sport Class Status.

## **Article 11. Classification Not Completed**

11.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, FIAS or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier may designate that athlete as "Classification Not Completed" (CNC).

11.2 The designation "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions of these Classification Rules concerning protests. However, the designation "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) will be recorded for the purpose of the FIAS Master Sheet.

11.3 A Sambist who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) does not participate in the FIAS competitions.

## **PART IV. ATHLETE EVALUATION, CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

### **Article 12. Classification Panel**

12.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by FIAS to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

12.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of two certified Classifiers and an ophthalmologist Classifier. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel consists of only one Classifier and an ophthalmologist Classifier.

12.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

### **Article 13. Classification Panel Responsibilities**

13.1 A classification panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:

13.1.1 evaluate whether an Athlete has an Eligible Visual Impairment for the sport;



- 13.1.2 evaluate the extent to which a Sambist is able to execute the specific tasks and be engaged in this kind of sport;
- 13.1.3 conduct (if necessary) observations during a competition.
- 13.2 After the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 13.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the evaluation as to whether a Sambist has an Eligible Visual Impairment must be undertaken by FIAS, unless FIAS requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 13.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 13.4.1 Although other factors such as a low level of technical proficiency and aging may also affect basic tasks and kinds of sport, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 13.5. A Sambist who has an additional Impairment can be evaluated by a Classification Panel, provided that this impairment does not affect the ability to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.6 The Sport Class allocated to an Athlete must meet the requirements specified in the Annexes.

#### **Article 14. Athlete Evaluation Sessions**

- 14.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 14.2 The National Federation is responsible for ensuring that Sambists comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this article.
- 14.3 In respect of Sambists:
- 14.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by members of the National Federation when attending an Evaluation Session.
- 14.3.2 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany him or her at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and the sport history.
- 14.3.3 The Sambist and accompanying person must confirm their consent to the evaluation by signing the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form.
- 14.3.4 The Sambist must show his or her passport or identity card to the Classification Panel when passing the Evaluation.
- 14.3.5 The Sambist must inform the Classification Panel of the use of any medication and / or medical device / implant.
- 14.3.6 The Sambist must follow all reasonable instructions given by the Classification Panel.
- 14.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:
- 14.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Impairment if the Classification Panel considers that this is necessary for allocation of a Sport Class.
- 14.4.2 The Classification Panel conducts Evaluation Sessions in English, unless otherwise stipulated by FIAS. If a Sambist requires a translator, a member of the National Federation is in charge of organizing the translation services. In addition to the person mentioned in this article, a translator is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific conclusion(s) with the agreement of the Head of Classification and / or a Chief Classifier, if the Classification Panel considers that such conclusion(s) is necessary to allocate a Sport Class.
- 14.4.4 The Classification Panel may only consider evidence presented to it by the corresponding Athlete, the National Federation and FIAS (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 14.4.5 The Classification Panel may create or use video footage and / or other reports when allocating a Sport Class.

#### **Article 15. Observation in Competition**

- 15.1 The Classification Panel may require that Observation be made during the competition before finally allocating a Sport Class and determining an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 15.2 The methods by which Observation can be carried out when assessing competition, as well as the provisions that must be observed when assessing an Athlete, are listed in the Annex.

15.3 If the Classification Panel decides to complete the assessment without Observation in Competition, the Sambist will be included in the competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.

15.4 A Sambist who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with a tracking code: "Observation Assessment" (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the period of Observation in Competition Assessment.

15.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must also take place at the first appearance. In this regard, the first appearance is the first time a Sambist participates in Competition in a particular Sports Class.

15.6 If a Sambist protests following the Observation, the Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with the code "Observation Assessment" (OA).

15.6.1 The Classification Panel must allocate the Sport Class and replace the Athlete's tracking code "Observation Assessment" (OA) by designating the Sport Class Status upon completion of the first appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of the protest procedures). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following the Observation in Competition, these changes shall take effect immediately.

15.7 The impact of a change in Sport Class after the first appearance on medals, records and results is determined by FIAS.

## Article 16. Sport Class Status

16.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. The Sports Class Status indicates whether or not a Sambist will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future, and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to protest.

16.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the end of the Evaluation Session, can be one of the following:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review (R)
- Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

16.3 An Athlete is allocated the FIAS Sports Class Status "New" (N) before attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. A Sambist with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session before participating in international competitions, unless FIAS specifies otherwise.

16.4 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C) if the Classification Panel makes sure that the Sambist is totally blind and has a diagnosis that does not imply an improvement in their visual capability or has ocular prostheses (Annex 1).

16.4.1 A Sambist with the Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C) is not required to undergo further Athlete Evaluation (with the exception of the provisions of these Classification Rules regarding protests, medical review and changes to Sport Class criteria).

16.5 If a Classification Panel considers that additional Evaluation Sessions are required, an athlete is given the Sport Class Status "Review" (R).

16.5.1 A Classification Panel may substantiate its opinion that further Evaluation Sessions are required on the basis of a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where a Sambist has only recently started to participate in competitions authorized or recognized by FIAS; has remissions and / or progressive Impairment / Impairments that is / are permanent but not stable; and / or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.

16.5.2 A Sambist with Sport Class Status "Review" (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to participating in international competitions, unless FIAS specifies otherwise.

16.6 A Sambist may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a "Fixed Review Date" (FRD) if the Classification Panel considers that further Athlete Evaluation is required but is not necessary until a fixed date, being the Fixed Review Date.

16.6.1 A Sambist with Sport Class Status Review with a "Fixed Review Date" (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the corresponding Fixed Review Date.

16.6.2 A Sambist who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a "Fixed Review Date" (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the indicated Fixed Review Date, unless it is requested for a medical review and / or protest.

16.7 If FIAS changes any Sport Class criteria and / or evaluation methods defined in the Annexes to these Rules, then:

16.7.1 FIAS may change the status of any Athlete from the Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C) to the "Sport Class Status Review" (R) and require that a Sambist attend an Evaluation Session as soon as possible;

16.7.2 FIAS may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Sambist attend an Evaluation Session as soon as possible;

16.7.3 in both cases indicated above, the National Federation is informed of the changes that have occurred within a seven-day period.

## **Article 17. Multiple Sport Classes**

17.1 This article applies to Sambists who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class.

17.2 A Sambist with impairments which may affect the visual function with significant physical exertion, may be eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class related to the corresponding Visual Impairment. In such cases:

17.2.1 the National Federation is obliged to notify FIAS as to the Athlete's corresponding impairments and the athlete's right to be allocated more than one Sport Class in relation to these Impairments, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;

17.2.2 an athlete must be given the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session for each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple impairments;

17.2.3 at the conclusion of the Evaluation Session, the Sambist must choose the Sport Class in which he or she wishes to be qualified ("the preferred Sport Class"). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition, the Sambist must select the preferred Sport Class prior to making any First Appearance;

17.2.4 an Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.

17.3 Any Sambist who has impairments other than their visual function can take part in competitions if these impairments do not impede the achievement of sports results.

17.4 A Sambist may request to change his or her preferred Sport Class:

a) at the end of the season, when the first Evaluation Session was completed;

b) following the end of the World Championships and prior to the start of the next season.

17.5 An Athlete's National Federation shall request a change in the preferred Sport Class. The application must be submitted to FIAS within the time period specified in this article.

17.6 Nothing in this article prevents an Athlete from requesting a medical examination at any time for any Sport Class.

## **Article 18. Evaluation Notification**

18.1 An Athlete's Evaluation results must be provided to the Athlete and / or National Federation upon completion of the Evaluation and published in ten days following the end of competitions.

18.2 FIAS publishes an Athlete's Evaluation results in the classification master list (Master Sheet) on the FIAS website.

## **PART V. SPORT CLASS "NOT ELIGIBLE"**

### **Article 19. General Provisions**

19.1 If FIAS determines that a Sambist:

19.1.1 has impairments that are not Eligible Visual Impairments, FIAS allocates the Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE).

19.2 If a Classification Panel determines that Visual Impairments of a sambist do not comply with Visual Impairment criteria for this kind of sport, then the Athlete must be allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) for that sport.

### **Article 20. Absence of Eligible Impairment**

20.1 If FIAS determines that a Sambist does not have an Eligible Visual Impairment, then the Athlete:

20.1.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session;

20.1.2 will be allocated with Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C).

20.2 A Sambist who is allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) by FIAS or a Classification Panel (if delegated by FIAS), has:

20.2.1 an impairment that is not a Visual Impairment;

20.2.2 a Visual Impairment which is not a fundamental and permanent disability;

Such athlete has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in competitions in this kind of sport.

### **Article 21. Absence of Eligible Visual Impairment**

21.1 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) if the first Classification Panel determines that the Sambist does not comply with the Eligible Visual Impairment criteria.

21.1.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session, an athlete will be allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) and designated Sport Class Status "Review" (R). The Sambist will not be allowed to compete until such re-evaluation.

21.1.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Sambist does not comply with Eligible Visual Impairment criteria (or if the Sambist refuses to participate in the second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier), in this case Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) will be allocated and the Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C) will be designated.

21.2 If a Sambist protests against a previously allocated Sport Class other than "Not Eligible" (NE) and is allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be given an additional and final Evaluation Session, which will review the decision taken by the Protest Panel.

21.3 If an athlete is allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE), this does not question the presence of a Visual Impairment. It is only a decision on the eligibility of this Athlete to compete in the kind of sport developed by FIAS.

## **PART VI. PROTESTS**

### **Article 22. Scope of a Protest**

22.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest cannot be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.

22.2 A Protest cannot be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE).

22.3 Protests may only be submitted by an Athlete's National Federation.

### **Article 23. Making a Protest**

23.1 A National Federation may submit a Protest regarding an athlete under its jurisdiction only during the competition or at the venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.

23.2 If Athlete Evaluation results are published during the competition, a Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of the result publication. If Athlete Evaluation results are published following the Observation in Competition, a protest must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes following the result publication.

23.3 If a Sambist is required to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, the National Federation may make a protest before or after the First Appearance. If a Protest is made before the First Appearance, the Sambist is not allowed to participate in the competition until a decision is made on the Protest.

#### **Article 24. Protest Procedure**

24.1 To submit a protest, a National Federation must confirm that the protest is made in good faith by providing the necessary evidence by filling out the Protest Form which is provided by FIAS in paper form during the competition; also, the Protest Form shall be available on the official FIAS website and must include following:

24.1.1 the name of the protesting athlete;

24.1.2 the details of the decision to be appealed and a copy of the decision to be appealed;

24.1.3 an explanation of the reasons why the Protest was made and the grounds on which the National Federation considers that the decision subject to appeal is erroneous;

24.1.4 a reference to the specific rule(-s) alleged to have been violated;

24.2 The Protest documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant competition in a timely manner. Upon receipt of the Protest documents, the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest in consultation with FIAS; by the check results, two options are available:

24.2.1 the Chief Classifier rejects a Protest if, at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not meet the requirements for making a protest specified in this Article;

24.2.2 the Chief Classifier accepts a Protest if, at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest meets the requirements for making a Protest specified in this Article.

24.3 If the Protest is rejected, the Chief Classifier must notify FIAS and the National Federation and provide the National Federation with a written clarification within one (1) business day.

24.4 If the Protest is accepted:

24.4.1 the Sport Class of the protesting Athlete must remain unchanged until a decision is made on the Protest, but the Sport Class Status of the protesting Athlete Sports Class must be changed to "Sport Class Status Review" (R), unless the protesting Athlete's Sport Class Status is already "Sport Class Status Review" (R);

24.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel (Classification Panel) to conduct a new Evaluation Session, which should take place either at the competition the Protest was made or at the next competition;

24.4.3 FIAS shall notify the National Federation of the time and date of the Athlete's new Evaluation Session.

#### **Article 25. Validity of Making a Protest**

25.1 A National Federation may, at its discretion, make a Protest regarding an Athlete under its jurisdiction if it considers that the Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

25.1.2 A National Federation makes a documented request to FIAS for the athlete's re-evaluation. Evaluation of the request validity is at the sole discretion of FIAS.

#### **Article 26. Protest Panel**

26.1. A Chief Classifier may fulfill one or several duties of the Head of Classification during the period of the Protest consideration, if permitted by the Head of Classification.

26.2. The Head of Classification shall appoint a Protest Panel in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing such a Panel in these Classification Rules.

26.3 A Protest Panel shall not include persons who are members of the Classification Panel that made the protested decision.

26.4 The Head of Classification shall notify the National Federation of the time and date for the Evaluation Session to be held by the Protest Panel.

26.5 The Protest Panel shall conduct the new Evaluation Session in compliance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to documents attached to the Protest when conducting the new Evaluation Session.

26.6 The Protest Panel shall allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in such a way as to comply with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.

26.7 The decision of the Protest Panel is final. A National Federation may not make another Protest regarding the Evaluation obtained during the same competition period.

### **Article 27. Protest Panel Non-Availability**

27.1 If a Protest is made at a competition, but there is no possibility for the Protest to be resolved at that competition, then:

27.1.1 a protested Athlete is allowed to compete in a Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status "Review" (R), pending the resolution of the Protest;

27.1.2 all reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## **PART VII. DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER VIOLATIONS**

### **Article 28. Violations during Evaluation Session**

28.1 A Sambist is personally responsible for participating in the Evaluation Session.

28.2 A National Federation shall take reasonable measures to ensure that the athlete attends the Evaluation Session.

28.3 If a Sambist fails to appear at the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel shall report the absence to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if he or she is convinced of the existence of reasonable explanations in connection with the failure to appear and taking into account practical considerations, indicate a revised date and time for the Athlete to participate in the next Evaluation Session.

28.4 If the Sambist is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Sambist fails to attend the Evaluation Session on a second time, no Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to participate in the relevant competition.

### **Article 29. Suspension of Evaluation Session**

29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:

29.1.1 the Athlete does not comply with any part of these Classification Rules;

29.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information reasonably required by the Classification Panel;

29.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and / or medical procedures / devices / implants by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct the determination in a fair manner;

29.1.4 the Sambist has a health condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during the Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect their ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;

29.1.5 the sambist is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;

29.1.6 the Sambist refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any member of the Classification Panel, to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner;

29.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities does not correspond to any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

29.2 If the Evaluation Session is suspended by the Classification Panel, the following measures shall be taken:

29.2.1. the Athlete and the respective National Federation will be provided with clarifications regarding the suspension and details of corrective measures required of the Athlete;

29.2.2 if the Sambist applies corrective measures to the satisfaction of the Head of Classification and / or the Chief Classifier, then the Evaluation Session is resumed;



29.2.3 If the Sambist fails to comply with the deadlines and does not apply corrective measures, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Sambist will not be allowed to participate in competitions until the determination of their Sport Class is completed.

29.3 If the Evaluation Session is suspended by the Classification Panel, the Classification Panel designates the athlete as "Classification Not Completed" (CNC).

29.4 The suspension of the Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation in connection with any possible Intentional Misrepresentation of the facts.

## **Article 30. Intentional Misrepresentation**

30.1 It is a disciplinary offense for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or inaction) his or her skills and / or abilities and / or degree or nature of Eligible Visual Impairment during the Athlete Evaluation and / or at any other time after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offense is referred to as "Intentional Misrepresentation".

30.2 It will be a disciplinary offense for any Athlete, as well as for the Athlete Support Personnel, in the event that they assist the Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation, or are in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up the Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.

30.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation, FIAS convenes a hearing to determine whether the Sambist or the Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.

30.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and / or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall result in one or more of the following actions:

30.4.1 disqualification of an Athlete;

30.4.2 an athlete is allocated with Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;

30.4.3 suspension from participation in competitions for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;

30.4.4 publication of the names of Sambists who have committed Intentional Misrepresentation and their suspension period.

30.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and / or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class "Not Eligible" (NE) with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to a lifetime.

30.6 An expert belonging to the category of "Athlete Support Personnel" who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and / or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion, is suspended from work in competitions for a period of time from four years to a lifetime.

30.7 If another International Sports Federation initiates disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation that results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognized by FIAS.

30.8 Any consequences to be applied to national teams, including an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and / or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of FIAS.

30.9 Any disciplinary action taken by FIAS in compliance with these Classification Rules shall be regulated in compliance with the applicable bylaws of the IPC Classification Appeal Board.

## **PART VIII. OTHER PROVISIONS**

### **Article 31. Medical Review**

31.1 This article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).

31.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the ability to execute the specific tasks and engage in sports in a way that is clearly different from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.



31.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by a National Federation (along with a 100 USD compensation and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and engage in sports has changed.

31.4 A Medical Review Request must be sent to FIAS as soon as possible after the changes occur.

31.5 The Head of Classification shall decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as practicable after receiving the Medical Review Request.

31.6 Any Sambist or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes but who fails to report on them to their National Federation or FIAS, may be suspected of Intentional Misrepresentation.

31.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to status "Review" (R) with immediate effect.

### **Article 32. Use of Athlete Information**

32.1 FIAS may only process Classification Data if such Classification Data are considered necessary to conduct Classification.

32.2 All Classification Data processed by FIAS must be accurate, complete and kept up to date.

32.3 FIAS may only process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom the Classification Data relates.

32.4 If a Sambist is not able to provide consent (for example, because the Sambist is under age), the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of this athlete must give consent on their behalf.

32.5 FIAS may process Classification Data without the consent of an Athlete, if permitted by law.

### **Article 33. Classification Research**

33.1 FIAS may request an athlete to provide their personal information for research purposes.

33.2 The use of an Athlete's personal Information by FIAS for research purposes shall comply with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical requirements.

33.3 Personal information provided by an Athlete solely for research purposes shall not be used for any other purposes.

33.4 FIAS may only use Classification Data for research purposes with the consent of the relevant Athlete. If FIAS needs to publish any personal information provided by an Athlete for research purposes, it must obtain consent from the Athlete to publish it. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymized so that it does not identify any Athlete(-s) who consented to the use of their personal information

### **Article 34. Notification to Sambists**

34.1 FIAS shall notify Sambists who provide their Classification Data as to:

34.1.1 that fact that FIAS collects the Classification Data;

34.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data;

34.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

### **Article 35. Classification Data Security**

35.1 FIAS is committed to:

35.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security guarantees, including physical, organizational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data;

35.1.2 take reasonable measures to ensure that any employee and / or engaged expert working with Classification Data uses this Classification Data in compliance with these Classification Rules.

## **Article 36. Disclosure of Classification Data**

36.1 FIAS is not entitled to disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organizations, except where such disclosure is related to the Classification carried out by another Classification Organization by agreement, and / or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.

36.2 FIAS may disclose the Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is consistent with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

## **Article 37. Retaining Classification Data**

37.1 FIAS ensures that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data are no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or completely anonymized.

37.2 FIAS defines and publishes guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.

37.3 FIAS implements policies and procedures to ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data only for the period necessary for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

## **Article 38. Access Rights to Classification Data**

38.1 Athletes may request from FIAS:

38.1.1 confirmation of whether or not FIAS processes their personal Classification Data and a description of the stored Classification Data;

38.1.2 copies of the Classification Data available to FIAS and relating personally to the Sambists;

38.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data stored by FIAS.

38.2 A Sambist personally or a National Federation on behalf of the athlete, may make the requests specified in this article, which must be satisfied within a reasonable time.

## **Article 39. Main Classification Lists (Master Sheet)**

39.1 FIAS maintains a Classification Master Sheet of Sambists, which shall include the name of an Athlete, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status where Athletes participating in international competitions shall also be indicated.

39.2 FIAS grants access to all National Federations to the Master Sheet on the FIAS official website.

## **PART IX. APPEALS**

An Appeal is a procedure by which a formal objection is submitted against the way in which the Athlete Evaluation and / or Classification of Sambists were carried out, and subsequently a decision is made regarding the objection submitted.

## **Article 40. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal**

40.1 Appeals may only be submitted by an Athlete's National Federation.

## **Article 41. Submitting and Considering an Appeal**

41.1 If a National Federation considers that procedural errors were made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and / or Sports Class Status and as a result, an Athlete was allocated the incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.

41.2 FIAS creates a Classification Appeals Commission which acts as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.

41.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in compliance with the applicable IPC Classification Appeals Board Bylaws.

## GLOSSARY

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**Sambist:** for Classification purposes, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by FIAS) or national level (as defined by each National Federation), and any other person who participates in sport at a lower level (regional), if such is determined by a National Federation.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** any coach, instructor, manager, translator, agent, team staff, official, medical personnel working with Sambists participating in or preparing for training and / or Competition.

**Chief Classifier:** a classifier appointed by FIAS to manage, coordinate and implement the Classification issues for a particular competition in compliance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Data:** personal information and / or confidential personal information provided by an Athlete and / or National Federation and / or any other person to a Classification Organization in connection with the Classification. Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to the Classification.

**Diagnostic Information:** medical records and / or any other documentation that allows to evaluate the existence, nature and degree of impaired vision or health

**Medical Review Request:** a request from a National Federation for a Medical Review made on behalf of an Athlete.

**Classifier:** a person authorized by FIAS as an official and a member of the Classification Panel.

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who started but did not complete the Evaluation.

**Classification:** the grouping of Sambists into Sport Classes, depending on how much their Visual Impairment affects fundamental activities in the kind of sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Sambist Classification.

**Code:** Athlete Classification Code and International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Personnel

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** Behavioural and Ethical Standards for Classifiers.

**Classifier Competencies:** qualifications and abilities that FIAS considers necessary in order for a Classifier to have the opportunity and the right to conduct Sambist Evaluation for the kind of sport developed by FIAS.

**International Standards:** a document complementary to the Code and containing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**Models of Best Practice:** a specific guidance document prepared by IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

**Observation in Competition:** the observation of an Athlete in a competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which a Visual Impairment affects the ability of an Athlete to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Eligible Visual Impairment:** an Athlete's Visual Impairment, which is a prerequisite for participation in competitions in the sport developed by FIAS, as indicated and detailed in the FIAS Classification Rules.

**Visual Impairment:** an Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete's vision.

**Main Classification List (Master Sheet):** a list compiled by FIAS which contains the data of Sambists who were allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Athlete Evaluation:** the process by which a Sambist is evaluated in compliance with these Classification Rules so that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.

**First Appearance:** first contest of an Athlete in a bout during a competition.

**Personal Information:** any information that refers or directly relates to an athlete.

**Classification Rules:** also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by FIAS in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** a deliberate (or unintentional) attempt to mislead the International Sport Federation or a National Federation regarding the existence or extent of skills and / or abilities relevant to the sport during the Athlete Evaluation and / or at any other time after the allocation of a Sport Class.

**Evaluation Session:** a session in which a Sambist must attend for a Classification Panel in order to evaluate the compliance of this Athlete with the established Visual Impairment criteria (the existence of Eligible Visual

Impairments), and allocation of a Sport Class Status, depending on the extent to which the Sambist is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. The Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Classifier Certification:** the processes by which FIAS evaluates that a Classifier meets the specific Classifier's Competencies required to obtain and maintain a certification or license.

**Classification System:** the procedures, methods and evaluation criteria used by FIAS for the development and designation of Sport Classes within the developed kind of sport.

**Sport Class:** a category for competitions determined by FIAS, depending on the extent to which a Sambist can perform the specific tasks in the sport.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that a National Federation must submit in order for a Sambist to undergo Athlete Evaluation that determines the Athlete's health condition, if so required.

**Sport Class Status:** a designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which a Sambist may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and / or be subject to a Protest.

**Fixed Review Date:** a date set by a Classification Panel prior to which a Sambist designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) is not required to attend an Evaluation Session, unless required by a Medical Review Request and / or Protest.

## ANNEX 1

### 1. Eligible Impairment Type

The main health disability of an Athlete who can take part in competitions in this sport is a significant Visual Impairment, which is the main and permanent type of Impairment. Sambists with impaired vision have reduced or absent vision caused by damage to the structure of eyes, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex of the brain.

Examples of a medical condition that can lead to Visual Impairment include retinitis pigmentation and diabetic retinopathy.

Eligible Visual Impairment criteria for Athletes with Visual Impairment are established with vision parameters that are determined and evaluated with the best optical correction on a better seeing eye: from the absence of light perception to visual acuity to 0.1 inclusive and / or with a concentric narrowing of fields of view 20 degrees inclusive.

### 2. Eligible Visual Impairment Criteria and Criteria for the Allocation of an Athlete's Sport Class

2.1 The functional Classification System applied in the SAMBO for the Blind discipline uses the characteristics and parameters of Visual Impairment to determine appropriate Visual Impairment and scoring of the capability to maintain balance as the primary principle of division into Sport Classes. The choice of evaluating the capability to maintain a stable balance is based on the fact that in order to achieve victory in SAMBO, the capability to maintain a stable balance is necessary, which is a condition for the effective implementation of attacking and counterattacking actions in SAMBO. Observation of athletes engaged in SAMBO for the Blind in Russia during both training and competitive bouts showed that a blind Sambist and a Sambist with a slight residual vision receives information about their opponent's behavior mainly due to their tactile senses. Therefore, in order to get more detailed information they try to approach their opponents, by making extra oscillatory movements in order to determine the movements of the opponent's body and second-guess their next actions, as well as figure out their own position relative to the opponent. However, such actions make an Athlete's position significantly less stable, which makes it easier for their opponent to unbalance them and apply a certain technique. Due to pressure on vestibular system, the balance of both totally blind Sambists and Sambists with slight residual vision is significantly reduced compared to Athletes who use eyesight in similar conditions. The consequences of this were observed during competitive bouts, when, after a SAMBO referee according to the rules brings the Athletes back to the initial position "collar and sleeve grip", the technical actions of a blind Athlete and those of an Athlete with a slight residual vision are much less effective than at the beginning of the bout, which leads to defeat in the bout, provided that an opponent of such an Athlete is a Sambist with less significant Visual Impairment. Thus, in accordance with the functional capabilities, two Sport Classes of SAMBO athletes were identified:

**SVI1** - in this class, totally blind Athletes and Athletes with slight residual vision perform in specialized helmets.

**SVI2** - this class is comprised of athletes with the presence of contour vision, which allows to distinguish objects at a sufficient distance and positively affects balance maintenance.

2.2 The minimum pass-through result for participating in competitions is the loss of 1 point out of 6 when evaluating the vision function in points. If an Athlete scores from 0 to 5 points at this stage of the evaluation, they are allowed to participate in competitions. This evaluation is carried out by the Classifier, who is an ophthalmologist.

2.3 Based on the results of evaluating the balance on a stable platform, Athletes are divided into 2 sports and functional classes (SAMBO Visual Impairment): SVI1 (0-3 points) and SVI2 (4-11 points).

### 3. Evaluation Procedure

3.1 Evaluation of the existence of an Eligible Visual Impairment is carried out in accordance with the results of an ophthalmological examination, the evaluation is given according to the parameters of vision on a better seeing eye with the best optical vision correction.

Scoring in points:

- 0 - complete lack of vision;
- 1 - the presence of light perception;
- 2 - visual acuity up to 0.005, or visual acuity up to 0.009 inclusive in the presence of nystagmus and strabismus, and / or a concentric narrowing of the fields of view to 5 degrees inclusive;
- 3 - visual acuity above 0.005 to visual acuity of 0.009 and / or concentric narrowing of the fields of view to 10 degrees inclusive;
- 4 - visual acuity to 0.06 and / or concentric narrowing of the fields of view to 15 degrees inclusive;
- 5 - visual acuity up to 0.1 inclusive and / or concentric narrowing of the fields of view to 20 degrees inclusive;
- 6 - visual acuity over 0.1 and / or concentric narrowing of the fields of view over 20 degrees.

### 3.2 Evaluation of the capability to maintain balance.

3.2.1 To determine the capability to maintain a stable balance, the method of stabilometry is used as the simplest for an Athlete, providing clear and easy to interpret data by the Classifier. The study is conducted using the ST-150 stabilizer (registration certificate No. FRS 2010/07900, certificate No. 4101 on type approval of measuring instruments) and the STPL control program (Global Medical Device Nomenclature code 43115 Balance / mobility management system application software). However, it is allowed to use a different stabilized platform (piezo platforms), since the balance is estimated based on a comparison of the indicators of a single Athlete in the first and second phases of the test without reference to specific numerical values.

3.2.2. The evaluation is carried out without vision correction, namely in the conditions in which the Athlete will compete. Time is given for adaptation to the absence of vision correction for at least half an hour after removing corrective glasses (lenses). The Evaluation is carried out in a room with dim diffused light, with the exception of sudden, especially sharp, sounds, or people moving during the evaluation. It is allowed to have objects in the room at a distance of 1 meter from the examined Athlete.

3.2.3 The two-phase Romberg test is used, the position "eyes open" and the position "eyes closed". From the moment the subject is ready to the test start, the exposure time is set to 10 seconds. The duration of each phase of the test is 30 seconds. A Sambist closes their eyes in the second phase of the test, however, it is preferable to use light-tight and tight-fitting blindfolds on the face. During the evaluation, a Sambist must stand straight, their eyes must be directed straight ahead. During the evaluation, an Athlete is forbidden to move, move their hands, shift from foot to foot, and turn their head. It is forbidden to distract an Athlete during the evaluation.

### 3.2.4 Evaluation of static balance in points:

0 - there is a decrease in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and area ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test, there is a gradual shift of the pressure center to the bearing area center and a gradual decrease in the fluctuation of the pressure center;

1 - there is a decrease in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and area ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test without reducing vibrations and the gradual displacement of the pressure center to the bearing area center;

2 - there is an increase in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and a decrease in the area indicator ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test;

3 - there is a decrease in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and an increase in area ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test;

4 - there is an increase in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and area ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test;

5 - there is an increase in the rate of change of work ( $A_v$ ) and area ( $S$ ) in the second phase of the test when the pressure center is shifted away from the bearing area center.

### 3.2.5 Evaluation of static balance after load on the vestibular system.

The change in the indicators of the statokinesiogram area in the main position (eyes open) is estimated before and after head rotation. An Athlete gets on the platform, the balance is assessed using a thirty-second single-phase test in the main position, then the Athlete performs 10 head rotations at a steady pace, when the rotation is done, the time is maintained for 10 seconds and the balance is estimated using the thirty-second single-phase test in the main position:

0 - increase in area ( $S$ ) after rotation of the head by more than 60%;

1 - increase in area ( $S$ ) after rotation of the head by more than 60%.

#### 4. Class parameters, designation of a Sport Class Status

2.3 Based on the results of evaluating the balance on a stable platform, Athletes are divided into 2 sports and functional classes (SAMBO Visual Impairment):

**SVI1** 0 to 3 points

**SVI2** 4 to 11 points.

Sambists who received 6 points in accordance with the results of an ophthalmological examination are designated the class "Not Eligible" (NE), and these Athletes are not permitted to participate in the sports competitions.

Sambists with ocular prostheses, lack of retina, complete atrophy of the optic nerve are determined by the SVI1 Sport Class and the Sport Class Status "Confirmed" (C). Except for the First Appearance, in these cases, the Classification Panel replaces the status with (C) after an Athlete has completed the first bout.

In the event that a Sambist according to the ophthalmological examination receives 0 (zero) or 1 (one) point, but at the same time, when testing on a stable platform, it shows that vision has a positive effect on maintaining balance, which corresponds to the total number of points scored from 4 or more, then an Athlete is identified by the Sport Class corresponding to the points scored, and the code "Observation Assessment" (OA) is allocated. This replaces an Athlete's Sport Class Status for the period of Observation in Competition. If in the process of observation a Sambist:

- approaches their opponent constantly and too closely, more than is required for conducting technical and tactical actions;
- significantly less effective after returning to the initial standing position, compared with their behavior at the beginning of the bout;
- shows that he or she is trying to conduct or is conducting, for example, a reap intuitively;
- other behavior, at the discretion of the observing panel according to the classification in these cases, such Athlete is qualified by the Sport Class SVI1, and the code "Observation Assessment" (OA) is changed to the Sport Class Status "Review" (R). Issues regarding an Athlete's continued participation in the competition after changing their Sport Class, if such a change occurred following the Athlete's first bout, are solved by the Classification Panel and the Chief Referee of the competition.

Following the end of the Evaluation Session before the competition, a Sambist receives a qualification report (ANNEX 2) containing the Athlete's personal data, evaluation results, a specific Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The qualification report must be signed by members of the Classification Panel. If a Sport Class and / or Sport Class Status is finally determined (for OA and N statuses) during the competition, an Athlete is given a second classification report with updated data after the final determination of their Sport Class and the Sport Class Status.



ANNEX 2

Qualification Report No.

Athlete (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring in points	Number of points
Evaluation of vision function	
Static balance evaluation	
Evaluation of static balance after load on the vestibular system	
TOTAL:	

Sport Class Defined \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sport Class Status Defined \_\_\_\_\_

Ophthalmologist \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

First Classifier \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

Second Classifier \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

### ANNEX 3

#### HELMET FOR SAMBO FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Specification (Fig. 1).

Pos.	Name of parts	Name of material	Qty patterns (PCS)	Qty details (PCS)	Expenditure rate (cm)
<b>Cover Details</b>					
1	Forehead detail, top	Imported faux leather	1	1	
2	Side detail, top	Imported faux leather	1	2	
3	Pate detail, top	Imported faux leather	1	1	
4	Loop	Imported faux leather	1	2	
5	Ear detail	Imported faux leather	1	2	
6	Clasp	Imported faux leather	1	2	
7	Decorative detail	Imported faux leather	1	1	
8	Blindfold, top	Mesh	1	1	
9	Blindfold, bottom	Cotton	1	1	
10	Eyes Shutter	Knitwear	1	1	
11	Forehead detail, lining	Faux suede	1	1	
12	Lining side detail	Faux suede	1	2	
13	Lining pate detail	Faux suede	1	1	
14	Loop dubbing	Shoe leather	1	2	
<b>Insert Details</b>					
15	Central liner detail	5mm polyethylene foam (PPE)	1	1	
16	Side liner detail	5mm polyethylene foam (PPE)	1	2	
17	Pate liner detail	5mm polyethylene foam (PPE)	1	1	
18	Ear liner detail	15mm polyethylene foam (PPE)	1	2	
19	Eye liner detail	5mm polyethylene foam (PPE)	1	2	
20	Eyes shutter insert	Foam rubber 10mm	1	1	
<b>Accessories</b>					
21	Velcro for fastener	Velcro 50 mm		1	
22	Velcro for bottom fastener, soft	Velcro black 25 mm		2	
23	Velcro for bottom fastener, hard	Velcro black 25 mm		2	
24	Velcro for top fastener, soft	Velcro black 25 mm		2	
25	Velcro for top fastener, hard	Velcro black 25 mm		2	
26	Top fastener	Cotton tape 25 mm black		1	
27	Lower fastener	Cotton tape 25 mm black		1	
28	Fractional tie	Faux leather		1	

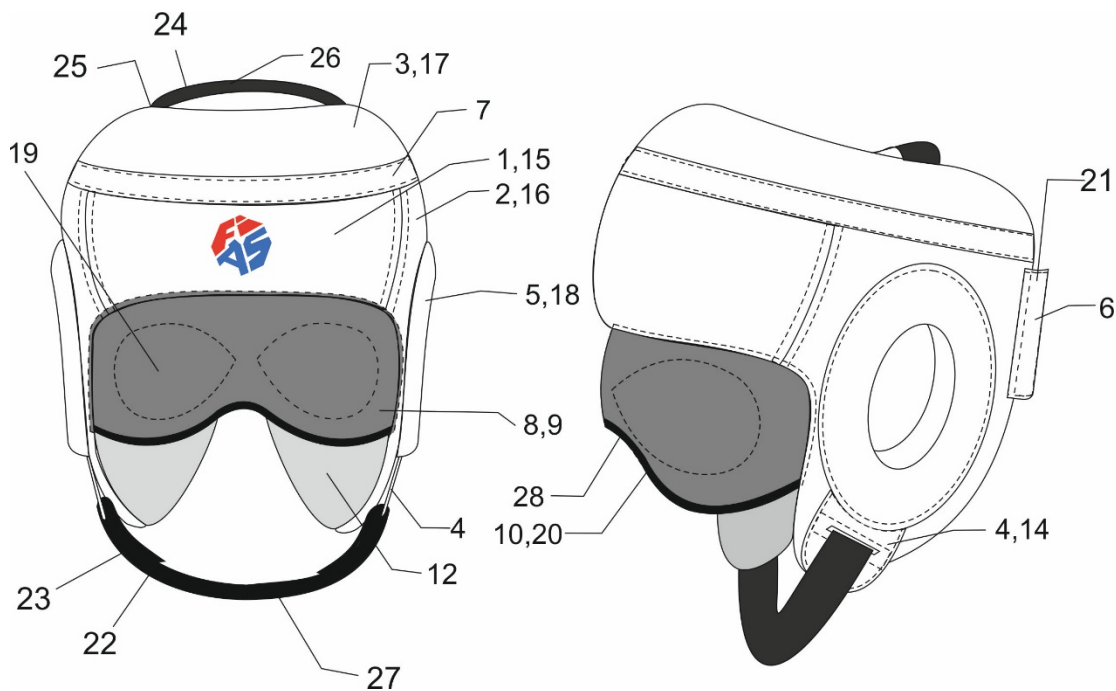


Fig. 1

The helmet is made for training and competition for SAMBO-for-the-blind athletes. The purpose of the helmet is to protect an Athlete's head and eye area from injury, as an Athlete due to the lack of sufficient vision is not able to dodge an accidental blow during a bout in a timely manner. Also, it is designed to exclude the possibility of using a small amount of vision, which can disorient the Athlete during the fight, for which the helmet has an eye patch made of black fabric that does not allow light to pass. At the same time, light can penetrate from the side of the lining fitting to the area of the Athlete's cheeks, since an Athlete who has a light perception and uses it to orient himself in everyday life can also use light that always falls on one side relative to his body for additional orientation in space. The overlay is equipped with a shutter that fits snugly to the nose and cheekbones to prevent light from entering. The helmet also has inserts made of sheets of foam, protecting the forehead, temples, ears, to reduce injuries (cuts and bruises) when Athletes come in contact during a bout or game. The helmet is mounted on the head with Velcro fasteners (hereinafter referred to as Velcro). Velcro straps are located behind, on top and under the chin. The helmet covers the most traumatic areas of the head, leaving the head open from above for ventilation and letting the hair out (if necessary, and with the referee's permission). On the ears there is an additional element forming a protective roller, which does not impede the ability to hear the referee's commands.

The material of the upper part is elastic faux leather, which facilitates the product care. The inner layer is made of faux suede which does not allow the helmet to move and scroll during a bout.

The eye blind is made of soft mesh and cotton fabric, making the skin breathe in these areas.

The trim has a rim on the lower edge that fits snugly against the cheekbones and nose and prevents light from entering under the trim.

Dimensions: M (with the possibility of "fitting" to the particular head's shape)

Color: Blue or red.

Weight: 200 (+/- 20) g.

The product must be made of the materials listed in Table 2.

Table 2 - Requirements for raw materials and supplies

No. p / p	Name of grouped material	Name of the material at the supplier	Normative documents	Material Purpose	Notes
1	Imported faux leather w. 140 cm	Faux leather 28TS104-102 25NW-002		For making a cover. Top	Another type of leatherette similar in its properties can be used.
2	Faux suede	Suede XS-0325		For making a cover. Lining	
3	Soft mesh	Mesh art. 7004 180-220g / sq.m		For making an eye blind	
4	Cotton fabric 200 g / m w. 150 cm	master universal fabric S25, 250g / sq.m		For making an eye blind	
5	Knitted color fabric, stretch w. 152 cm (240 g / sq.m.)	Prima stretch exclusive Thermotransfer, 240g / sq.m		For making an eye shutter	
6	Shoe leather	Genuine leather "Rhythm", black		For making a loop	
7	Velcro w. 50 mm new	Contact tape AlfaTex. 50 mm		For making a fastener	
8	Velcro w. 25 mm new	Contact tape AlfaTex. 25 mm		For making a fastener	
9	Cotton band w. 25 mm black	Cotton ribbon ear 25mm 7s653 black		For making a fastener	
10	Fractional tie faux leather	Teporex Sanapur (fabric for the making medical mattresses, 200g / m, width 1.4m		For making eye blind	
11	Capron threads N170L, matching color	Threads 170L		For making a cover	
12	Foam roll 5 mm	Isolon PPE HP 3005		For making a liner	
13	Foam roll 15 mm	Isolon PPE HP 3015		For making a liner	
14	Foam rubber 10 mm 1x2m	Foam sheets 10 22 / 150A X		For making a liner	
15	Fir. universal polyester	Fir. universal polyester			
16	Brand braid	Jacquard Label 45I800			
17	Dimensional label	Dimensional label			
18	Moment Glue	Moment Classic 1 universal waterproof glue, 125ml.		For making a liner	