

Classification Process (PD/VI)

Issued: AUGUST 2025

1.0	<p>Objectives</p> <p>1.1. Objectives: This policy has been agreed by Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association</p> <p>1.2. Database: To maintain the classification database of individual athletes that will be eligible to compete in International classified events.</p> <p>1.3. Classifications: To co-ordinate classification events with the International Classifiers & Athletes to ensure eligible athletes are appropriately classified and that classifications which are required to be renewed are identified and classification sessions arranged.</p> <p>1.4.Challenges: Should an athlete's classification be challenged then the National Governing Body (NGB) will provide support to the athlete and co-ordinate with the classifiers a review of the classification.</p>
2.0	<p>Eligibility Criteria</p> <p>To be eligible for classification all athletes must:</p> <p>2.1 Have an Eligible Impairment as defined by the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD).</p> <p>2.2 Be a member of an affiliated Bowls England (BE) club (outdoor) or an English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) club (indoor)</p> <p>2.3 Comply with any eligibility criteria required by IBD classification processes.</p> <p>2.4 Be in good standing with BE & or the EIBA, not subject to any disciplinary or safeguarding investigation or process.</p>
3.0	<p>New Classifications</p> <p>3.1 Athletes may nominate themselves for classification or be recommended for classification by completing the classification request form held on the IBD website. The athlete is responsible for all costs relating to the completion of the classification documentation.</p> <p>3.2 The Disability Officer (BE) or the Disability Co-ordinator (EIBA) will acknowledge receipt of the request for classification and have an initial suitability conversation with the relevant IBD Classifier.</p> <p>3.3 If the athlete is deemed suitable to proceed to a classification clinic they will be notified and move to the Classification Process.</p>

	<p>3.4 If the athlete is deemed unsuitable the athlete will be notified by the Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator.</p>
4.0	<p>Classification Renewal</p> <p>4.1 The Disability Officer & Disability Co-ordinator will review their organisations classification database quarterly via to identify expired classifications expired and classifications expiring within the next twelve months.</p> <p>Reviews will be carried out in November, February, May & August.</p> <p>4.2 The Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator will contact the athlete to ascertain if the athlete continues to meet the Eligibility Criteria and wishes to renew their classification, if they do then proceed to the Classification Process. If the athlete chooses not to proceed with the renewal the relevant database(s) will be updated.</p>
5.0	<p>PD Classification Evaluation Process</p> <p>5.1 A minimum of 2 clinics will be held per year. The Disability Officer & Disability Co-ordinator will arrange evaluation sessions at an appropriate time and location with an IBD Classification Panel.</p> <p>5.2 BE & EIBA will pay for necessary travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for the Classification Panel.</p> <p>The IBD Classification Panel will: -</p> <p>5.3 Provide the athlete an application form to be completed by the athlete & GP and returned to the IBD Classifier</p> <p>5.4 Assess the form to confirm whether an athlete complies with the minimum impairment criteria</p> <p>At the Classification Clinic:</p> <p>5.5 Carry out a face-to-face medical assessment to check diagnosis and level of impairment, , and advise the Disability Officer & Disability Co-Ordinator of the outcome.</p> <p>5.6 Carry out an on-green assessment to confirm the extent to which an athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport and observe the athlete in a competition situation.</p> <p>5.7 The athlete may ask for a member of the National Governing Body to attend the evaluation session. The athlete must be accompanied if a minor or has an intellectual impairment.</p> <p>5.8 Confirm the outcome of the evaluation.</p> <p>5.9 Following a successful evaluation the athlete will be awarded a Sport Class Status with an individual IBD Classification Card:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent (P) - Review (R) - Review with a fixed review date (FRD) <p>5.10 The IBD Classification Panel notifies the Disability Officer & the Disability Co-ordinator of the classification outcome</p> <p>5.11 The Disability Officer & the Disability Co-ordinator arranges for the classification databases to be updated.</p> <p>5.12 Athletes with a Review (R) status must attend a further evaluation session prior to competing in any subsequent international competitions unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>5.13 Athletes with a Fixed Review status (FRD) status must attend a further evaluation session at the first opportunity after the FRD and not before unless subject to a Medical Review Request / &/or Protest.</p>
6.0	<p>Classification Evaluation Process – Visually Impaired (VI)</p> <p>6.1 The Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator receives a request for a VI classification.</p> <p>6.2 The Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator will send the sight test forms to the athlete to arrange for the relevant eye tests to be completed by an Optician / Optometrist.</p> <p>6.3 The athlete returns the forms to the Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator who will send the IBD Head Classifier for VI to be assessed.</p> <p>6.4 The Classification is confirmed to the Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator with a VI Classification Certificate.</p> <p>6.5 The Disability Officer or Disability Co-ordinator send the athlete their certificate.</p> <p>6.6 The Disability Officer & Disability Co-ordinator arranges for the classification database to be updated.</p>