UCI Para Cycling Frequently Asked Questions: Classification

What is Classification?

Classification is undertaken to:

a) Define who is eligible to compete in Para cycling and

b) Group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised, and sporting excellence determines which Athlete is ultimately victorious.

What eligible impairments are there for Para Cycling?

There are 8 impairment types that are eligible for Para Cycling:

- Impaired Muscle Power
- Impaired Passive Range of Movement
- Limb deficiency
- Leg length difference
- Hypertonia
- Ataxia
- Dyskinesia
- Vision impairment

Intellectual Impairment is currently not included in UCI Para Cycling events. It is governed by Virtus Sport who organise Cycling competitions for Athletes with intellectual impairments. To find out more, you can visit https://virtus.sport/

What Sport Classes are there?

Para Cycling has four divisions, which are split into Sport Classes. The lower the number, the greater the impact of the impairment on the function.

Handcycle division (H):	Athletes classified in Classes H1-4 compete using an arm powered or arm trunk powered handcycle where a recumbent position is mandatory. Athletes classified in the Handcycle class H5 compete in a kneeling/sitting position.
Tricycle division (T):	Athletes classified in Classes T1-2 are unable to ride a bicycle due to lack of balance and/or severe restriction in pedaling due to spasticity/ataxia/ athetosis/dystonia. These Athletes ride a three-wheeled tricycle.
Bicycle division (C):	Athletes classified in Classes C1-5 ride a standard two-wheeled bicycle which may have adaptations to account for an Athlete's impairment.

Tandem division (B):	Athletes with visual impairments (stoker) ride on a tandem with a sighted pilot. Athletes are classified into B1-3 and compete together in one B class.

What types of Classification are there?

Athletes who wish to compete nationally must attend National Classification, which is arranged by their respective National Federation/National Paralympic Committee.

Athletes who wish to compete internationally must attend International Classification, which is arranged by UCI and takes place at certain international events throughout the year.

The following questions relate to the International Classification process as regulated by the UCI.

How do I enter Classification?

In order to be classified, you must be entered into an event which hosts Classification. Classification opportunities can be found on the Para Cycling Classification website.

A Classification schedule will be published on the Para Cycling Classification website and will be sent by email to the team managers. Athletes and teams must check regularly for updates as the Classification schedule is subject to change.

What information do I need to provide?

You must provide medical information in form of a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) along with supporting medical documents. These must be uploaded by your National Federation/National Paralympic Committee to the UCI Classification database PCSAS. MDFs for VI and PI Classification can be found on the Para Cycling Classification website.

All Athletes who have an adaptation to their equipment must submit an adaptation request through PCSAS in advance. Adaptations ensure that Athletes can compete in a safe and fair manner.

What do I need to bring to my Classification?

You must present your UCI Licence at Classification.

Athletes with physical impairments must:

- wear their cycling gear (shorts, shoes, helmet)
- bring all equipment used in competition, including the bicycle(s), tricycle(s) or handcycle(s), as well as any prostheses, braces or other equipment

Athletes with visual impairments must:

- wear their standard correction (glasses, contact lenses)

What happens during my Classification?

You must present to Classification at the specified time with an Athlete representative (optional) and an interpreter (mandatory for Athletes who do not speak English). An Athlete representative is mandatory for minors (under 18 years of age).

For Athletes with physical impairments:

A Classification panel, consisting of a medical and a technical Classifier, will conduct the Athlete Evaluation. The panel may ask questions about the nature of the impairment and rehabilitation, the training history and Para Cycling experience. The medical Classifier will conduct a series of tests relevant to the impairment. You may be asked to demonstrate getting on/off your bicycle/tricycle or in and out of your handcycle as well as skills such as pedalling, cornering or a standing start.

Following the Classification assessment, you will be given a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status. This Sport Class Status may be final or may require you to be observed in competition.

Following Observation in Competition, you will receive a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status as described in the Para Cycling regulations.

For Athletes with visual impairments:

A Classification panel, consisting of two medical Classifiers, will conduct the Athlete Evaluation. The panel may ask questions about the nature of the impairment, treatment and medication history or optical aids used in competition. They will conduct a medical assessment including but not limited to an assessment of the visual acuity.

Following the Classification assessment, you will be given a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status as described in the Para Cycling regulations.

What does my Sport Class Status mean?

You can be allocated one of the following Sport Class Statuses:

New (N): You have never been internationally classified and will enter a competition with the Sport Class Status New

Confirmed (C): You do not have to be classified again and may compete in your allocated Sport Class.

Review (R): You must be classified again at the next competition.

Fixed Review Date (FRD): You must attend another Classification at the first event you compete at in the year of the Fixed Review Date. For example, FRD26 means you must be classified at the first opportunity in 2026.

Observation Assessment (OA): This means that you will be observed in your first appearance at the competition after the Classification assessment. You will receive a final Sport Class Status after the event.

What can I do if I do not agree with my Sport Class?

If you or your National Federation/National Paralympic Committee do not agree with the allocation of a Sport Class following Classification, the National Federation/National Paralympic Committee may submit a Protest. A protest form can be found on the Para Cycling Classification website.

Further information regarding protests can be found in the Para Cycling Regulations.

What can I do if my impairment changes?

If your impairment worsens or improves once you have been classified, the National Federation/ National Paralympic Committee should request a Medical Review (MRR). The MRR form can be found on the Para Cycling Classification website.

A Medical Review Request should detail the changes in your impairment and provide medical documentation to support the request. The request will be reviewed by the UCI and, if accepted, your Sport Class will change to "Review" and you will be seen at the next event you compete at which hosts International Classification.

Further information regarding Medical Reviews can be found in the Para Cycling Regulations.

What is the Classification Master List?

The Classification Master List is a list which documents all Athletes competing in Para Cycling with their Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This is the reference document to determine which Athletes require Classification at a certain event.

Athletes will remain on the Master List until they request to be removed.

Where can I find the Para Cycling Rules?

The Para Cycling Regulations can be found on the UCI website under Regulations, Part XVI.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

You should contact your National Federation/National Paralympic Committee first if you have any questions regarding Classification. The National Federation/National Paralympic Committee can contact classification@uci.ch if they need additional information regarding Classification.