



SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION POLICY

SWIMMING CANADA IDENTIFICATION, PRIORITIZATION, RANKING AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR WPS CLASSIFICATION.

WPS	World Para Swimming
World Para Swimming Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity “Classification”	<p>In-person athlete Classification event for an impairment category.</p> <p>WPS Classification Sport Class Evaluation Opportunities are competitions identified by WPS as offering Sport Class Evaluation for one or more Impairment Groups; swimmers with a: Physical Impairment (PI), Visual Impairment (VI), or Intellectual Impairment (II).</p> <p>These are usually World Para Swimming Series events but may also be offered elsewhere</p>
Impairment Groups	
Physical Impairment “PI”	Denotes a swimmer who has an eligible physical impairment
Visual Impairment “VI”	Denotes a swimmer who has an eligible visual impairment
Intellectual impairment “II”	Denotes a swimmer who has an eligible intellectual impairment
Medical Documentation Form “MDF”	<p>Medical Diagnosis Documentation.</p> <p>Required documentation of a Permanent Qualifying Underlying health Condition and related Eligible Impairment[s].</p>
Supporting Medical Document	Additional medical documentation supporting the extent of a swimmer’s activity limitation for sport.
Sport Class	The combination of S, SB, and SM identifiers categorizing a swimmer’s racing catchment i.e.: S14SB14SM14, or SB9, or S3SB2SM3
The following refer to WPS Sport Class Status:	
New “N”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A swimmer’s sport class prior to attending their first WPS Classification. - Swimmers with a Sport Class Status of “N” must present for classification for eligibility
Confirmed “C”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A swimmer’s sport class that has been confirmed (C) as part of the WPS Classification process. - Swimmers with a Sport Class Status of “C” has no further requirement to present for classification
Review “R”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A swimmer’s sport class that is under review (R) as part of the WPS Classification process. - Swimmers with a Sport Class Status of “R” must present for classification at the earliest opportunity
Fixed Date Review “FDR”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A swimmer’s sport class is to be reviewed in a specific year (eg. R2024) as part of the WPS Classification process. - Swimmers with a Sport Class Status of FDR are required to present for classification, but no earlier than the identified year identified.
Competitive Readiness	Demonstrated ability to train, race, and perform to a standard required for international competition.



Second Panel	An incomplete sport class evaluation (or a required re-evaluation resulting from a Not Eligible (NE) evaluation, or an accepted Protest) requiring evaluation by a new Classification Panel.
Medical Review	An outstanding requirement to present for classification due to a documented change of activity limitation for sport.
WPS License	Registration with WPS as a currently recognized competitor. A swimmer may be licensed with or without a current WPS sport class but must have met all the documentation requirements including IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement, MDF, Supporting Document, Current Passport, Current Headshot Photo, Fee(s) as required, eligibility to represent Canada.
Virtus	Virtus is the global organization for athletes with an intellectual impairment competing in elite sport.
Adjusted World Rankings “AWR”	World Rankings, limited to 3 athletes per event per National Paralympic Committee (NPC) and without all Canadians, calculated and published twice annually.
Performance AWR	In the Fall, before November 1 st with results from the Summer Championships; (Performance AWR)
Projected AWR	In the spring before Swimming Trials for the purpose of projecting world competitiveness for the Summer Championships. (Projected AWR)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Classification is intended for elite athletes and, as such, prospective athletes may be required to have achieved a performance standard as a pre-requisite. Elite athletes may require WPS Classification for one of several reasons.

- An in-process evaluation that has not been completed, such as awaiting a Second Panel; or
- An outstanding Medical Review Request that has been granted; or
- Has been assigned a Fixed-Date Review for the current calendar year (or earlier); or
- Has been assigned an undated Review Status; or
- Has been licensed with a status of ‘New’ and has not yet been to a WPS Sport Class Evaluation.

Any required performance standard shall not be identified as a qualifying standard but as one of the several prerequisites identified above.

2. Swimming Canada, as for all Nations and National Federations, has limited access to WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity Appointments. As equitable classification is the foundation upon which all our national teams are built it is the responsibility of Swimming Canada to make the most efficient and most strategic use of these appointments possible.

II. BACKGROUND / PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of this document is to outline the policy and processes by which Swimming Canada will nominate swimmers to World Para Swimming for the purposes of obtaining a Sport Class



1. The calendar of WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunities should be considered in three phases:
 - **Phase 1 – Senior International Team**
Early in the calendar year from January until Swimming Canada Trials with the priority being to confirm Selection/Nomination eligibility for proven international performers.
 - **Phase 2 – Senior Team Nomination**
Mid calendar year Swimming Trials through to Summer Championships Entry Deadline with the priority being to confirm eligibility for provisionally nominated/selected swimmers for the forthcoming Senior International Team.
 - **Phase 3 – Post-Season Strategic Team Preparation**
Latter part of the calendar year, Summer through until Fall with the priority being to confirm new talent for future teams.
2. Swimming Canada is not allocated a set number of appointments for a Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity until after the entry deadline for each competition. For this reason, athletes added to the Long List (Section VI) for WPS Sport Class Evaluation must be prioritized and then ranked for each Opportunity.

III. ELIGIBILITY

a) General conditions

Any athlete Swimming Canada wishes to put forward for WPS Classification is required by WPS to be licensed. This requires:

- An accepted MDF; and
- Accepted Supporting Medical Documentation; and
- Eligibility to compete for Canada; and
- For athletes with an Intellectual Impairment – established Virtus eligibility and membership.

b) Swimming Canada conditions

In addition to the above, Swimming Canada requires that applicants / nominees:

- Be a Member in Good standing with a Swimming Canada affiliated swim club; and
- Be Registered with a Varsity or Competitive status; and
- Have a valid Level 3 sport class; and
- Hold a current Canadian passport; and
- Demonstrate technical proficiency required to be evaluated completely and equitably; and
- Are Competitive Ready.

IV. Athlete Cohort Definitions

Annually, athletes requiring classification will be grouped into cohorts that best describe their current position in the Swimming Canada high performance system. These cohorts are used to prioritize allocations to available Classification Appointments.

1. **Athletes in-Process** – Swimmers who either have an outstanding Medical Review or require a Second Panel and as such are in-process, their classification process has begun but is not yet completed.
2. **Proven International Podium Potential** – Previous Senior National Team Members with a proven history of performance (Top 8 or better on Senior Teams) and have already achieve qualifying standards for both the upcoming Trials and the Senior Championships undergoing Selection/Nomination.



3. **Podium Potential** – New Status swimmers who have qualified for the upcoming Trials in their current sport class and whose performances suggest a strong chance of achieving a Championship Final or better; or swimmers with a WPS Review status whose recent performance improvements indicate a strong chance of similar performance.
4. **Provisional Nomination** – Swimmers whose performances at Trials would make them eligible for Selection/Nomination provided they have a current WPS Sport Class and appropriate Sport Class Status.
5. **Future Teams** – New status swimmers on a performance pathway towards NextGen teams and Senior teams beyond the current Major Championship cycle.
6. **Discretionary** – The complex needs of building a national program requires well informed discretion. The factors that may be considered by the Associate Director of High Performance in allocating a swimmer to a slot may, but not be limited to not be limited to, swimmers who:
 - Based on expert opinion have a strong chance of a change in sport class;
 - Through being Classified, become integral to a national team relay strategy;
 - Can be expected to be awarded a Confirmed Sport Class late in the year, thereby saving a review appointment in the new year.

V. Impairment Specific Considerations

1. WPS Classification opportunities offer evaluations for some combination of the PI, VI, and II swimmers. Historically, PI Classification has had the largest demand and, despite having the largest number of opportunities, has been the hardest to get appointments for.
2. VI & II Classification constraints have tended to be limited to the locations and events at which they are offered.
3. PI swimmers therefore are mostly constrained by the rank order Swimming Canada can secure appointments for, while VI and II swimmers need to have documentation, licensing and readiness to travel to one of the few available events offering classification.

VI. Procedures

Long List

- i. Swimming Canada will publish a *WPS Sport Class Evaluation Long List* in the month of November with revisions as required after each WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity and as required after Canadian Level 3 Sport Class Evaluation Opportunities.
- ii. Adjusted World Rankings (AWR) are an important tool for ranking internationally competitive athletes for the Long List.
- iii. As athletes may enter the Long List (Section VI) after being awarded a Level 3 Sport Class, it will be revised in the spring and again after the summer following Level 3 Sport Class Evaluation.
- iv. Further, an athlete's sport class status may change after a WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity requiring another evaluation for one of the reasons identified above. As such their priority may change between WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunities.
- v. Nomination of Eligible Athletes, as per Section III, for each WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity will occur through a ranking process as follows:

A. Senior International Team:

- Priority 1 – Athletes In-Process
- Priority 2 – Proven International Podium Potential
- Priority 3 – Podium Potential



- Priority 4 – Discretionary

Athletes will be ranked (inside their respective priority) against the Performance AWR. Should an athlete decline an appointment the next highest athlete will be named instead.

B. Senior Team Nomination:

- Priority 1 – Provisional Nomination
- Priority 2 – Athletes In-Process
- Priority 3 – Podium Potential
- Priority 4 – Discretionary

Athletes will then be ranked (inside their respective priority) against the Projected AWR. Should an athlete decline an appointment the next highest athlete will be named instead.

C. Post-Season Strategic Team Preparation:

- Priority 1 – Athletes In-Process
- Priority 2 – Future Teams
- Priority 3 – Podium Potential
- Priority 4 – Discretionary

Athletes will then be ranked (inside their respective priority) against the Projected AWR. Should an athlete decline an appointment the next highest athlete will be named instead.

- vi. The Long List will be further differentiated by sorting swimmers into their respective Impairment Category.

Short List(s)

- i. For each WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity, Swimming Canada will identify a Short List of candidates to be put forward at that competition.
- ii. The final list will be established through application of the following:
 - All requirements of Point III (above) are met; and
 - Evaluation of the Long List given the highest priority for the calendar; and
 - Confirming athletes have met eligibility requirements which include, but not be limited to:
 - Additional documentation required by WPS;
 - Competition eligibility requirements which typically include Meet Qualifying Standards (MQS);
 - Specific athlete availability noting that some athletes may not be able to attend a competition;
 - Preparedness and readiness to travel noting that sometimes very short notice impacts the ability of a swimmer to travel.
 - Needs of the National Program which may include factors such as:
 - Relay Strategy requirements,
 - Medical documentation indicating a strong assumption of a sport class change,
 - Identifying suitable swimmers for events in which Swimming Canada doesn't already have competitive participants,
 - Ensuring that areas with specific needs, like those requiring significant support (such as High Support Needs), have proper attention to depth of field and access. This applies to both local development and global feasibility.
 - Impairment Category availability. When appointment availability is depended on Impairment Category, swimmers may be awarded a Classification Appointment based on their ranking by category rather than their overall ranking on the Classification Long List.



Notifications

- Athletes will be notified of their inclusion on a WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunity short list before the entry deadline. When Swimming Canada is notified of the available appointments for the competition, the athletes, ranked in order as per Section VI, will be notified.

Classification Tour Team

- Swimming Canada attends WPS Sport Class Evaluation Opportunities as a tour team and, as such, all team members are required to meet Swimming Canada's Team Membership requirements.
- All selected swimmers are required to pay a standard Participant Fee
- As a member of a Swimming Canada team, transportation, accommodation, meals, event entry, coaching and Classification Representation are provided.
- As with any Swimming Canada Team, additional participants, staff, or personnel may not be added without approval of the Associate Director of High Performance or Team Leader.