

WORLD SAILING
Classification Sub-Committee
ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026
QUAD 2025-2028

1. Committee Name

Classification Sub-Committee

2. Para Committee Liaison

Kay Rawbone (PWSC Chair)		
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3. Sub Committee Members

Helen McKenzie (Chair)	Sarah Ross (Vice Chair)	Stephen Wilson
Jenny Molsen	Jurgen Schwittai	Sue Parry
Bernard Destrube	Barbara Caplan	Yoshi Yamada
Akira Shimzu	Pedro Cunha	

4. Working Groups

<u>Working Group</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Members</u>
Classification System Alignment/ Rules	Helen McKenzie	Sarah Ross, Jurgen Schwittai, Bernard Destrube, Sue Parry, Stephen Wilson.
Intellectual Impairment Classification	Stephen Wilson	Sarah Ross, Helen McKenzie, Lynne Beal, Darren Eger
Database Revision	Jurgen Schwittai	Bernard Destrube, Helen McKenzie, Sue Parry, Pedro Cunha

4.a Working Groups Aim & Remit

Classification System Alignment Group: To plan how to change and align the current WS Classification system with the IPC Code.

Intellectual Impairment Classification: To design and implement a fit-for-purpose Intellectual Impairment (II) classification pathway that aligns with IPC Code requirements and Virtus standards, transitioning II classification from a research phase to an evidence based system

Database Revision: To work with World Sailing nominated personnel to revise the existing classification database, to help create and effectively incorporate a new classification IPC compliant database.

5. Remit and Strategic Alignment

[“Ready for the Future 2025-2029”](#)

[“Olympic Vision”](#)

[“Sustainability Agenda 2030”](#)

[“Steering the Course: Women in Sailing”](#)

[“Para Inclusive Strategy”](#)

At the core of the Para Inclusive Strategy lies a commitment to Inclusion, a Modern Vision, Impact & Social Change, and Reinstatement in the Brisbane 2032 Paralympics

The Classification Sub-Committee’s remit is to uphold these principles through the delivery of a world-class, transparent, and robust classification system that fully complies with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

This includes ensuring fair and consistent athlete classification by safeguarding the integrity of competition, driving innovation in processes and education, and expanding access to classification opportunities globally.

By aligning with IPC standards, building classifier capacity, and with support from WS and organising authorities embedding classification seamlessly into event planning, the Sub-Committee will enable more athletes to compete internationally, strengthen

the credibility of Para sailing, and support the sport's case for Paralympic reinstatement.

Through this focus, the Classification Sub-Committee will act as a cornerstone of the Para Inclusive Strategy, that governance meets the highest international standards, and that classification contributes directly to the long-term growth, inclusivity, and global impact of sailing.

<u>Mission/Remit</u>	Mission Statement/Remit: The monitoring and delivery of a world-class, transparent, and robust classification system that fully complies with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.
<u>Alignment to WS Strategies</u>	
Updated Classification Rules and Regulations (IPC Compliant)	Remit: - Review and update World Sailing's Classification Rules & Regulations to ensure they fully meet IPC Athlete Classification Code requirements, are clear to athletes and MNAs, and are consistent across all classes and events. Alignment: - Ensures governance excellence and credibility, safeguards fair competition, and meets a critical requirement for Paralympic reinstatement under the Para Inclusive Strategy's integrity and compliance pillars.
Annual Classification Calendar	Remit: - Develop and publish an annual classification calendar with support through the Race Officials and Para World Sailing Managers that provides accessible opportunities for classification across all regions, integrated with the Para Inclusive event pathway. Alignment: - Expands global access to classification, supporting participation growth, geographic diversity, and inclusion goals central to the Para Inclusive Strategy.

Innovate Classification and Technical Standards	Remit: • Drive continuous improvement of classification processes - streamlining assessments, piloting same time-zone remote/e-classification tools, and updating technical specifications to enhance fairness and accessibility. • Collaborate with the IPC Classification Working Groups and other sports to pilot innovations while safeguarding athlete welfare. Alignment: • Modern Vision: “Maintain alignment with the IPC Athlete Classification Code while continuing to innovate”. • Strategy Objective: Innovating classification underpins a modern, forward-thinking approach to Para sailing governance.
Classifier training and recertification programme	Remit: • Deliver a sustainable training, mentoring, and recertification programme to increase the number of accredited classifiers worldwide. Alignment: • Strengthens capacity to deliver classification globally, improves quality and consistency of athlete assessments, and aligns with the Strategy’s commitment to professional excellence and inclusivity.
Classification data reporting and IPC compliant documentation	Remit: • Implement robust protocols for collecting, managing, and reporting classification data, ensuring timely and accurate submission to the IPC through the WS Executive Office. Alignment: • Enhances transparency, demonstrates accountability, and meets the IPC’s compliance requirements - essential for reinstatement and long-term governance credibility.

On site Classification panels at priority events	Remit: • Provide on-site classification panels at priority Para Inclusive events to support athlete entry, re-evaluation, and observation requirements. Alignment: • Increases immediate access to classification, facilitates participation in international competition, and supports the Strategy's objective to integrate classification into event delivery.
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The classification programme's core remit is to deliver a fully IPC-compliant system that safeguards fairness, increases global access, and supports sailing's Paralympic reinstatement bid. This involves updating Classification Rules & Regulations to meet the highest governance standards, publishing an annual classification calendar in collaboration with the World Sailing Executive, to widen participation opportunities, and developing a sustainable training and recertification pathway for classifiers to ensure quality and consistency worldwide.

Robust data reporting and compliance documentation are essential to maintain transparency and meet IPC requirements, while on-site classification panels at priority events will streamline athlete entry and re-evaluation processes, directly boosting competition access.

Collectively, these actions underpin the Para Inclusive Strategy by ensuring classification is accessible, credible, and seamlessly integrated into event delivery, ultimately reinforcing the integrity and growth of Para sailing on the world stage.

6. Objectives for the Year

List 3–5 specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives for the year.

Objective 1	1. Update Classification Rules and Regulations By 1 st July 2026, publish fully revised World Sailing Classification Rules & Regulations that are 100% aligned with the IPC Athlete Classification Code, approved by the relevant reporting committees, and communicated to all MNAs, classes and Para Inclusive Community.
Objective 2	2. Publish Annual Classification calendar for 2026 By 27 February 2026, launch an online classification calendar covering at least 6 events across four IPC regions, ensuring a minimum of one event per region offering on-site classification.
Objective 3	3. New Database By 31 May 2026, to consult and test a new Classification database, modernising the system and offering more robust data protection.
Objective 4	4. Intellectual Impairment Research By 31 st September 2026 (In time for the 2026 World Sailing Inclusion Championships), to have developed a robust Intellectual Impairment classification system to take II classification out of the research phase.

7. Key Activities

- Break down the objectives into actionable tasks with deadlines and responsible parties.
- Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress and success.
- Outline the resources required to achieve the objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1				
Update Classification Rules and Regulations				
TASKS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KPI	RESOURCE REQUIRED
Review and compare current WS Classification Rules against the 2025 IPC Athlete Classification Code.	April 2026	Classification Rules WG, WS Exec	Draft Model Rules	WS Exec office time.
Finalise and submit updated rules for WS Council approval and publish on the WS website.	June 2025	Classification Rules WG, WS Exec	Model Rules Published.	WS Exec office time.

OBJECTIVE 2				
Publish Annual Classification Calendar				
TASKS	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KPI	RESOURCE REQUIRED
Identify and confirm priority events in each IPC region through consultation with MNAs and classes.	February 2026	WS Exec, HoC	Internal List of Events Classifiers are attending in 2026.	WS Exec office time.

Publish Classification Calendar Online.			Calendar online	
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OBJECTIVE 3		New Database		
<u>TASKS</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>	<u>KPI</u>	<u>RESOURCE REQUIRED</u>
Consult with Globacol through online sessions on required functionality of database.	31 st March 2026	Classification WG.	Database in a usable format.	Database WG & WS Exec office time, Classification database software (budgeted in Para).
Finalize changes to Classification Database, test at least two event.	31 st June 2026	CSC, Database WG	New Classification Database Online in use for tests	Database WG & WS Exec office time, Classification database software (budgeted in Para).

OBJECTIVE 4		Intellectual Impairment Research		
<u>TASKS</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>	<u>KPI</u>	<u>RESOURCE REQUIRED</u>

To develop a standardised Intellectual Impairment classification process.	31 st September 2026	II WG	II Classification taken out of experimental/testing phase	
II Classification Process used at WSIC 2026	14 th October 2026	II WG	II Classification Process used at WSIC 2026	

8. Reporting and Review

Submit quarterly progress reports to the Para World Sailing Committee and present findings at the annual general meeting.