INTERNATIONAL VA'A FEDERATION

PARA VA'A Rules & Classification System

(Effective for 2016 IVF World Elite & Club Championships)

Section I: IVF PARA Va'a Rules for World Sprints

1. Age requirement- competitors must have reached the age of 16 by or during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.

2. Eligibility determination:
   To determine eligibility to compete as a Para Va'a Paddler, all candidates must submit the following documents and participate to the best of their ability in a Classification testing procedure:
   a. IVF Consent for Para Va'a Classification Form
   b. IVF Classification Application Form
   c. IVF Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures Form
   d. IVF Certificate of Medical Diagnosis completed by a medical doctor
   e. paddlers with a visual impairment must include an IVF Visual Impairment Form completed by an ophthalmologist to demonstrate that they meet the appropriate classification requirements

3. Para Va'a Paddler Classification score
   a. The IVF Classification Panel will allocate a race class and status (review/confirmed) for individual Para Paddlers following the Classification procedure
   b. The IVF Classification Panel may observe paddlers anytime during training and/or competition and review the classification of any paddler whose performance in a canoe exhibits functional ability that markedly differs from that which was demonstrated during testing.

4. Competition Points allocation
   a. V1 races in the following three divisions as for ICF/IVF competition:
   VL1, VL2 and VL3:
   The V1 Quota for the 2016 event can be found here: http://www.worldsprints.com/events--quota.html

   b. V6 mixed team competition:
      1) teams shall include three male and three female paddlers with disabilities (It is acceptable to have more females than males ratio)
      2) the total number of points (VL1,VL2,VL3) may not exceed **15** points (eg: VL333222 or VL333221 etc)
      3) A team may compete with a lower number of points. and should there be 2 teams or more with lower numbers we will recognise that as an event
      4) Countries may enter up to 6 x V6 Mixed Para teams.

   c .V12 mixed team competition:
      1) teams shall include six male and six female paddlers with disabilities (It is acceptable to have more females than males ratio)
      2) the total number of points (VL1, VL2, VL3) may not exceed **30**
      3) A team may compete with a lower number of points. and should there be 2 teams or more with lower numbers we will recognise that as an event
      4) Countries may enter up to 3 V12 Mixed Para teams

d. V3 Mixed Competition (Included in 2016 as Demonstration only – **With a quota of 2 entries per country Max**):

1) teams shall include at least 1 male and 1 female paddler. All paddlers must have disabilities .
2) the total number of points may not exceed **7**
3) A team may compete with a lower number of points. and should there be 2 teams or more with lower numbers we will recognise that as an event

Blind paddlers; Blind paddlers are to produce documentation by an Opthamologist or Optometrist certifying that their visual impairment would fall into the B1, B2 or B3 Paralympic categories and then all blind paddlers are required to wear blinders (provided by the ICF/IVF) to occlude all vision. Blind paddlers are placed in the highest functioning category which would now be VL3. Blind paddlers in V1 races are allowed a sighted guide who shall paddle behind them in the same lane to give directional cues. Blind paddlers are required to wear blinders in the team boats too.

The guidelines for Classification for athletes with vision impairment (VI) are determined by the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA).
IBSA Classes:
B1: From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction

B2: From ability to recognize the shape of a hand to a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or monocular visual field of less than 5 degrees.
B3: From visual acuity above 2/60 to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or monocular visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees

Adaptive Equipment
a. Para Va'a Paddlers must supply their own adaptive equipment with the exception of blind paddlers who will be required to wear blinders supplied by the Para Va'a Committee in all of their races

b. Para Va'a Paddlers who use personal assistive devices, adaptations, prosthesis, seating support, etc. during the Classification testing procedure must use the same equipment when racing.

c. When racing, Para Va'a Paddlers may not use additional personal assistive devices, adaptations, prosthesis, support, etc. not used during the Classification testing procedure. For example, a paddler with limb amputation may not use a prosthetic device when racing if it was not used during the Classification testing procedure

Athletes with Cerebral Palsy: Paracanoe currently lacks test protocols to classify paddlers with Cerebral Palsy. Athletes with this condition holding a CP-ISRA card at **class 4 only** will be allowed to compete and automatically will be placed in the VL1 class. Paddlers with this classification wishing to compete in the IVF World Sprint Championships must present the classification panel with their CP-ISRA class 4 card. Please note, all other CP-ISRA classes currently **are ineligible and cannot compete** in IVF International events.

5. Overturns

a. In V1 races, in the case of overturns, the contestant is eliminated from the race if it is not possible for them to resume their place in the va'a within three minutes, without any outside help.

b. In V6 races, overturns will be cause for automatic disqualification, so immediate assistance can be given; paddlers will not be permitted to continue in the race

Section II: IVF/ICF Classification System for Va'a events

The IVF has adopted the ICF Para Va'a Classification system and admits athletes with disabilities on the same basis. By adopting a common Classification system, the IVF Para Va'a Committee intends to assist the organizers of IVF World Sprints (and like events) to provide elite competition opportunities to athletes with a functional impairment precluding their involvement in open competition or the Olympics.

Note that the classification system does not include athletes with intellectual disability.

Functional Classification of Outrigger Canoe Paddlers. Purpose of a Classification System

(a) Enable fair and equitable competition at all levels, for mildly, moderately and severely disabled Va'a canoe paddlers
(b) Encourage crews of mixed disability, from mild to severe, to compete and complement each other
(c) Measure only the functional limitations caused by physical disability
(d) Not be affected by the canoeing skills, training or talent of the paddler

IVF/ICF Classifiers

There are two types of Classifiers:

1. Medical Classifier: a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist (physical therapist)
2. Technical Classifier: a person with extensive practical knowledge of outrigger canoeing, such as a canoeing coach, sport scientist, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

The IVF Classification Panel consists of teams of classifiers, each team contains one medical and one technical classifier.

Classifiers have undergone training and qualification by the ICF

PROCESS FOR CLASSIFYING OUTRIGGER CANOE PADDLERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Application Process for Paddlers Seeking IVF Classification

Before commencing the classification process, all paddlers are required to submit the following documents:

- IVF Consent for Para Va'a Classification Form
- IVF Classification Application Form
- IVF Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures Form
- IVF Certificate of Medical Diagnosis completed by a medical doctor
- Paddlers with a visual impairment must include an IVF Vision Test Form completed by an ophthalmologist to demonstrate that they meet the appropriate classification requirements

Note: Paddlers previously classified in ICF World Sprints do NOT need to submit a Certificate of Medical Diagnosis if their physical condition/diagnosis has not changed.

Classification Procedure

Para Va'a paddlers are responsible for bringing all completed required forms to IVF World Sprints and delivering them to the IVF Classification Panel at the classification evaluation meeting.

Para Va'a paddlers must report to a classification evaluation meeting to a timetable determined by the IVF Classification Panel and declare all personal assistive devices, adaptations, prosthesis, seating support, etc. that they intend to use when racing.

Method of Assessment

An IVF Classification Panel conducts the standard ICF/IVF classification process. This process involves five parts:

1. Review of IVF Certificate of Medical Diagnosis
2. Review of an IVF Vision Test Form using IBSA (International Blind Sports Association) standards completed by an ophthalmologist for paddlers who are blind or visually impaired
3. Trunk function tests, lower limb function tests and/or upper limb function tests undertaken in the testing lab by the Medical Classifier assisted by the Technical Classifier.
4. On Water Observation undertaken by the Technical Classifier assisted by the Medical Classifier – IVF Classifiers may observe paddlers anytime during training and/or competition and review the classification of any paddler whose performance in a canoe exhibits functional ability that markedly differs from that which was demonstrated during the Functional Movement Test.