

WORLD ROWING CLASSIFIER TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION PATHWAY



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1. Introduction

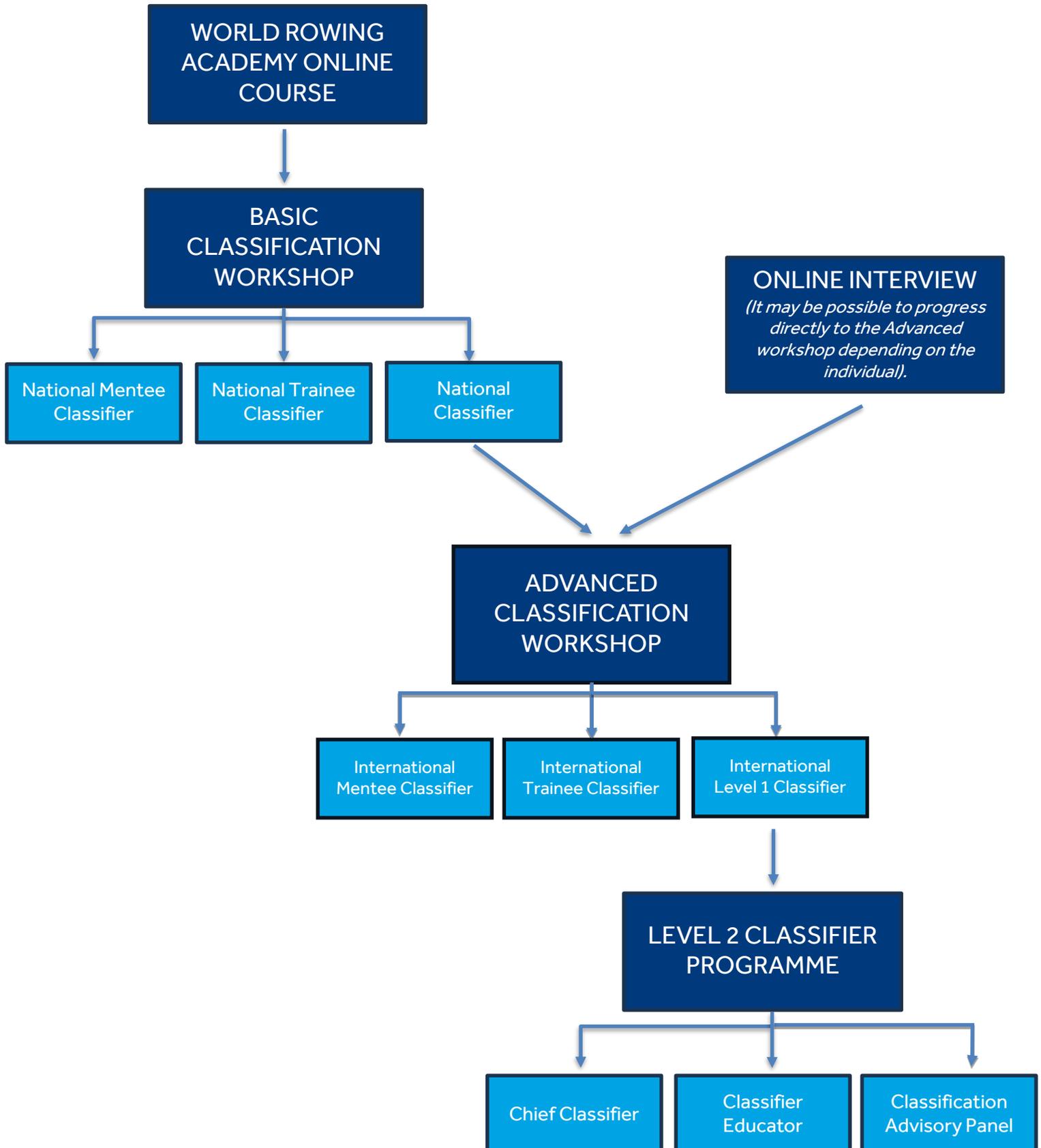
The **World Rowing Classifier Training, Development and Certification Pathway** presents the requirements and processes for National and International Classifier Training, Certification and Re-certification in Rowing.

In addition, the pathway outlines the processes through which World Rowing will:

- Manage Continuing Professional Development of International Classification Personnel;
- Re-engage non-active Classification Personnel;
- Appoint International Classifiers to World Rowing events;
- Manage International Classifier Conflict of Interest;
- Manage International Classifier Wellbeing and Safeguarding.

2. World Rowing Classifier Training and Certification

a. World Rowing Classifier Training and Certification Pathway Matrix



b. World Rowing Basic Classification Workshop

This face-to-face programme is delivered in English and/or the local language. Participants will receive immediate feedback from the Educators and undergo a practical assessment.

Classification rules and forms are available on the World Rowing website www.worldrowing.com and should be downloaded and read prior to attending the workshop. The World Rowing Educator may provide additional training materials to be studied prior to attending the course.

i. Basic Classification Workshop Participant Profile (Pre-requisites)

- Participants must be either a medical professional (to train as a Medical Classifier) or someone with a recognised Rowing coaching qualification* (to train as a Technical Classifier).
 - Medical professionals include medical doctor, physiotherapist or occupational therapist, with a current professional license to practice by a nationally recognised authority. Athletes with these qualifications who wish to become a Classifier must not have competed in a World Rowing event for a two-year period prior to attending the Basic Classification Workshop.
 - *Interested individuals without a Rowing coaching qualification may submit their coaching and/or rowing history to World Rowing for approval before registering for a Basic Classification Workshop. Athletes with these qualifications who wish to become a Classifier must not have competed in a World Rowing event for a two-year period prior to attending the Basic Classification Workshop.
- Medical Classifier candidates must have clinical experience in the assessment techniques used in World Rowing Classification (manual muscle testing, goniometric ROM measurement, and relevant neurological testing methods).
- Technical Classifier candidates must have knowledge and understanding of the sport of Rowing. (This is also encouraged for Medical Classifier candidates).
- Participants must have successfully completed the online classification course through the World Rowing Academy and attended a pre-workshop meeting.
- Experience with individuals with impairment and activity limitations, especially those impairments most common in Rowing, is an asset. (Common impairments include amputation, orthopaedic musculoskeletal conditions, and other neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, brain injury and cerebral palsy).
- Past experience as a Classifier in another sport would be an asset.

ii. Basic Classification Workshop Learning Outcomes

The following learning outcomes should be achieved upon completion of the Basic Classification Workshop:

- Understand and apply the conceptual basis of Classification.
- Understand the World Rowing Classification process.
- Understand and conduct relevant medical and functional tests for Impairment.
- Understand how the Rowing stroke translates to the Para Rowing Sport Classes.
- Understand the impact of impairment on Rowing movements during In-Competition Observation Assessment.
- Be able to properly complete all relevant Classification documents.
- Know all Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and Sport Class Criteria and where to locate it within the Classification Rules and Regulations.
- Learn how to properly communicate Classification outcomes.
- Understand and be able to manage risk as a Classifier.
- Demonstrate appropriate communication and interpersonal skills to work well with other Classifiers, Athletes, and Support Personnel.

iii. Basic Classification Workshop Assessment

- Practical assessment/observation.
- Communication and interpersonal skills to work well with other Classifiers and Athletes.
- Feedback of strengths and weaknesses as a Classifier based on competency will be provided.

iv. Basic Classification Workshop Certification Outcomes

Candidates who complete all content and assessments of the Basic Classification Workshop are awarded the status of either National Mentee, National Trainee or National Classifier.

- **National Mentee:** Not yet competent to classify, but successfully completed the workshop; may observe national classifications with approval from their National Federation; would need to take another Basic Classification Workshop to progress.

- **National Trainee:** Able to observe, then classify at a national rowing event with assistance of a current National Classifier; unable to sign off on an Athlete Evaluation without a National Classifier's signature.
- **National Classifier:** Able to classify at a national rowing event as a member of a Classification Panel without supervision or additional support.

c. World Rowing Advanced Classification Workshop

i. Advanced Classification Workshop Participant Profile (Pre-requisites)

- A National Classifier who has accurately classified at least one athlete in every Sport Class following successful completion of the Basic Classification Workshop. Ideally have classified at least one athlete with a neurological impairment. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel.
- Successful completion of the Basic Classification Workshop ideally 24 months prior to the Advanced Classification Workshop. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel, for example: Classifier in another sport.
- Submission of Classification assessments of athletes from all three Sport Classes to the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel for review.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to collaborate with the Classification panel, athlete, and team support.
- Ability to communicate in writing and verbally in English.
- Completion of the World Rowing Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form.
- Interview with World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel members.
- No international athlete who is currently competing for their National Federation in any Para Sport or who has retired from Para Rowing less than four years ago is able to participate in an Advanced Classification Workshop.

ii. Advanced Classification Workshop Learning Outcomes

The following learning outcomes should be achieved upon completion of the Advanced Classification Workshop:

- Understand and apply the conceptual basis of Classification.
- Understand the World Rowing Rules, IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- Understand and conduct relevant medical and functional tests for Physical Impairments.
- Understand the basic movement requirements for the Para Rowing stroke.
- Understand and observe the impact of the impairment on the rowing stroke in training and

during the In-Competition Observation Assessment.

- Be able to properly complete all relevant Classification documents.
- Know all Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and Sport Class Criteria and where to locate it within the Classification Rules and Regulations.
- Understand when, and be able to issue each type of Sport Class status or designations (including NE, C, R-NAO, R-FRD, N, CNC, etc.).
- Know how to properly communicate Classification outcomes, including Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- Understand and be able to manage risk as a Classifier.
- Understand the protest and appeals procedures.
- Understand how to identify possible Intentional Misrepresentation and the procedure to manage it.
- Understand the Medical Review Request procedures.
- Understand and be able to follow the proper procedures of Classification.
- Know the role of a National Classifier.

iii. Advanced Classification Workshop Content

- World Rowing Sport Classes.
- World Rowing and IPC Classification Code & International Standards.
- World Rowing Classification Rules.
- Eligible and non-eligible underlying Health Conditions & Eligible and Non-Eligible Impairments.
- MDF Confidentiality.
- Code of Conduct (World Rowing and IPC).
- Medical "bench" Testing.
- Measurement of Impairments Minimum Impairment Criteria.
- Sport Classes – (including NE) Functional Assessment.
- Completion of Athlete Evaluation Form.

- General Discussion on Protests/Appeals, Intentional Misrepresentation, Medical Review Requests.
- Practical assessment skills; observation of Classification and formal observation on water.

iv. Advanced Classification Workshop Assessment:

- Theory Exam.
- Practical Exam.
- Communication and interpersonal skills to work well with other Classifiers and Athletes.
- Feedback of strengths and weaknesses as a Classifier based on competency will be provided.

v. Advanced Classification Workshop Certification Outcomes

Candidates who complete all content and assessments of the workshop are awarded the status of either International Mentee, International Trainee or Level 1 International Classifier:

- **International Mentee:** Not yet competent to classify internationally but successfully completed the workshop; able to observe international classifications at their own expense with approval from the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel; would need to take another Advanced Classification Workshop to progress; not listed on the World Rowing International Master Classifier List.
- **International Trainee:** Able to observe, then classify at a World Rowing event with assistance of a current Level 1 or 2 Classifier; unable to sign off on a classification assessment without a Level 1 or 2 International Classifier's signature; World Rowing will financially support part of the expenses to travel to events for Classification; listed on the World Rowing International Master Classifier List.
- **Level 1 International Classifier:** Able to classify at a World Rowing event as a member of a classification panel without supervision or additional support; listed on the World Rowing International Master Classifier List; all expenses for travel to World Rowing events for Classification are covered.

d. Level 2 International Classifier Programme

When Level 1 International Classifiers excel in all areas of Classification, and express interest in progressing to Level 2, they will be evaluated for this opportunity.

To become Level 2 International Classifiers, Level 1 International Classifiers would need to act as Co-chief Classifier, assist with Classifier education, show initiative and participate in additional project based work (consider involvement with UHC assessment, virtual classification assessment, documentation updates).

To be assessed for Level 2 status, Level 1 Classifiers must have excellent evaluation skills during the Classification assessment, and show excellent communication skills (verbal and written).

The list of Level 2 International Classifiers will be published and maintained on the World Rowing website.

i. Level 2 International Classifier Profile (Pre-requisites)

- Successful completion of an Advanced Classification Workshop and at least 12 months of experience as a World Rowing Level 1 International Classifier.
- Desire to progress Classification knowledge and experience and to assist in the development of Rowing on an international level.
- Have an excellent level of written and spoken English relevant to medical and physical testing, and be of sufficient level to effectively communicate in official and stressful situations and when mentoring/teaching others.
- Have an in-depth understanding of the World Rowing and IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- Understand and apply the conceptual and practical basis of Classification to a high standard, including performing a complete classification evaluation on complex cases.
- Know and conduct In-Competition Observation Assessment to a high standard independently for complex cases.
- Know how to effectively mentor less experienced classifiers.
- Understand and clearly explain all Classification procedures, protest situations, and other procedures that are the responsibility of the Chief Classifier.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to effectively deal with issues relating to team management, conflict management, ethical and cultural issues.

- Show objectivity, professionalism and respect when dealing with national teams and colleagues.
- Understand and demonstrate leadership in the management of risks in classification.
- Know the role of an International Classifier and roles and responsibilities of a Chief Classifier.

Additional advantages (Pre-requisites):

- Involvement in the delivery of at least one Basic Classification Workshop.
- Satisfactory contribution as a Level 1 Classifier in a Protest Panel.

ii. Level 2 Classifier Assessment

- Observation at World Rowing events by at least two members of the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel.
- Observation of co-delivering a Classification Workshop (Basic or Advanced) with a member of the World Rowing Classification Advisory Panel.
- Observation of acting as a co-Chief Classifier at a World Rowing event.

iii. Level 2 Classifiers Programme Certification Outcomes

Level 2 International Classifiers are able to:

- Act as a Chief Classifier at a World Rowing event.
- Be an educator for classifier training and workshops.
- Be a Continental Lead Classifier.

Level 2 International Classifiers should continue to keep a log of their events attended, and the number of athletes and types of impairments they have classified. This is required by World Rowing to assist in determining if the Classifier is meeting criteria to maintain the Level 2 Certification.

3. Engagement, Retention and Continuing Professional Development of World Rowing International Classifiers

To support long-term development, all Level 1 and Level 2 International Classifiers are required to keep a Logbook to record their classification activities. Classifiers are monitored and provided with feedback based on their performance at Evaluation Sessions and their interactions with the Chief Classifier. Additionally, Classifiers are asked to provide peer-on-peer feedback following Evaluation Sessions.

Any performance concerns are addressed directly with the relevant Classifier by a member of the Classification Advisory Panel. Classifiers may have their certification removed if the Classification Advisory Panel is no longer satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required competencies, or has breached the Classifier Code of Conduct.

To ensure each Classifier retains the relevant competencies, all Level 1 and Level 2 International Classifiers must complete a re-certification once per Paralympic cycle (every four years) to maintain their status.

4. Re-engaging non-active Classification Personnel

Classifiers are considered non-active if they fail to participate in two Classification opportunities per Paralympic cycle (every four years), or fail to complete a re-certification once per Paralympic cycle (every four years).

Non-active Classification Personnel, who have previously held a Level 1 or Level 2 International Certification, may re-commence classifying internationally once they have completed a re-certification and the Classification Advisory Panel is satisfied that they demonstrate the required competencies.

5. Appointing International Classification Panels to World Rowing events.

International Classifiers are appointed to World Rowing events based on their availability and interest to participate.

International Classifiers are expected to take part in a minimum of two Classification opportunities per Paralympic cycle (every four years) to maintain their certification. Exceptional circumstances will be considered.

6. International Classifier Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the 2025 IPC Classification Code, the following persons are not permitted to commence practical training to become an International Classifier or hold a Certification as a Level 1 or Level 2 International Classifier:

- An international athlete who is currently competing for their National Federation in any Para Sport or who has retired from Para Rowing less than four years ago;

Persons holding the above roles are able to complete the Basic Classification Workshop and become a National Classifier.

7. International Classifier Wellbeing and Safeguarding

Participation in sport provides significant physical, psychological and social benefits. At the same time, research demonstrates that interpersonal violence can occur in all sports and at every level of participation. World Rowing confirms that every individual involved in its activities has the fundamental right to operate in a safe, respectful, and non-violent environment. The wellbeing of all participants, including classifiers, is central to World Rowing's mission and values. World Rowing is committed to fostering an environment and culture that is free from all forms of interpersonal violence, as outlined in the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy. Any misconduct or transgressive behaviour is strictly prohibited and represents a violation of the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and Code of Ethics. Such violations may result in formal disciplinary action.

In upholding these standards, World Rowing recognises that some individuals may have heightened vulnerabilities, including juniors, para-athletes and individuals from minority or marginalised groups. World Rowing also recognises that classifiers themselves may face unique pressures, including scrutiny of decision-making, challenging interactions, and exposure to conflict or hostility. Protecting the wellbeing of classifiers is therefore a core duty of care. During Para Rowing classification sessions, all individuals involved—including classifiers, para-athletes, coaches, support personnel, officials, volunteers, chaperones and classifier trainees—are required to understand, uphold and implement the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the Code of Ethics and any event-specific safeguarding requirements. This responsibility extends to complying with all complementary documents, such as codes of conduct, and completing any mandatory safeguarding education.

To support classifier wellbeing, World Rowing will ensure that classification environments are safe, respectful, and professionally appropriate. A designated Safeguarding Officer will be present during key World Rowing events, or available remotely at all times, to provide guidance, receive concerns and support the implementation of safeguarding measures. In line with these support measures, classifiers may raise concerns about their own treatment, wellbeing, or working conditions. Any concerns or allegations relating to interpersonal violence must be reported through the appropriate channels, as outlined in the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy.