



INTERNATIONAL RAFTING FEDERATION PARA RAFTING CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

From March 2021

Definitions

- Basic safety equipment = Personal Floatation Device (PFD), helmet, appropriate footwear and clothing
- River = river or artificial whitewater course

1. Documentation required prior to Competitor Evaluation

The following documents to be submitted to the IRF before the classification process:

- a. Competitor's Physical Diagnosis Form
- b. Para Rafting Medical Condition Form

Both can be found within the *IRF Para Rafting Competitors Physical Diagnosis Form* document

2. Classification Procedure

1. Introduction

- a. There are three environments for the competitor evaluation. All three assessments are similar tests of a competitor's functional abilities under different environments:
 - i. Dry land
 - ii. Flat water (Large eddy, Lake or Swimming pool)
 - iii. River (Class III rapid section)
- b. These assessments will be done in the same order as above.
- c. The same classifier is to do all three assessments. For safety requirements the classifier, safety personnel and competitor must be in mutual agreement before any next assessment is to be undertaken.
- d. The competitor and the classifier are to work together to set up the dates, location and conditions for the assessments. If the assessment is being done:
 - i. in the competitor's home location it is the duty of the national rafting organisation to work with them.
 - ii. if the assessment is being done at an event it is the duty of the event organisers to work with them.

2. Classification environment summary

- a. Controlled environment
 - i. Dry land - assess competitor's functional abilities without paddle.
 - ii. Flat water - assess competitor's functional abilities in conjunction with paddle.
- b. Dynamic environment
 - i. River Class III - assess competitor's functional ability with movement and hazards.

3. Pre-test procedure

- a. Prior to the classification process the Classifier must be made aware of the competitor's:
 - i. pre-existing medical conditions
 - ii. physical diagnosis information as per IRF Para Rafting Competitors Physical Diagnosis Form
 - iii. swimming ability and appropriate safety precautions to be put in place

4. Classification process

- a. After the medical assessment the classifier explains the competitor evaluation and the Safety Personnel does the basic safety talk.
- b. Classifier to inform the competitor:
 - i. the basic safety equipment plus whistle required
 - ii. that they can only have one support person (and one translator if required) at the dry land assessment except during transferring into and out of the raft
 - iii. they are to be in the middle of the raft on all three assessments on their preferred/strongest side
 - iv. that if required their support seats /adaptations may be secured to the raft prior to the classification with assistance
- c. Classification should occur in an area that is restricted for classification purposes.
- d. On dry land the classifiers and safety personnel verify that the raft and adaptive equipment is safe before proceeding with on water assessments.
- e. On dry land Classifier documents and photographs adaptation/s and prosthetics used by competitor (same adaptation only to be used in IRF events).
- f. Classifiers film the competitor when transferring into the boat on all three assessments.
- g. On both flat water and river assessments the competitor is to be with one other paddler in the raft. R2 configuration from middle of raft. Competitor on their preferred/strongest side. Classifier is there for classification not for safety or to be a paddler.
- h. Classifier to wear helmet cam on all three classifications.

5. Considerations during the evaluation

- a. Adaptations ought to optimize functional ability not to restrict or enhance it.
- b. Make sure the quality of the videos will be good (e.g. lighting should not impact the quality of the video).
- c. Inform the competitor that maximal performance is required. If the classifier observes that the competitor is not performing maximally the competitor will be requested to repeat the test until maximal performance is achieved or the classification will be stopped.
- d. The competitor should be encouraged throughout the tests to perform at full potential.
- e. During classification the Classifier assesses the competitor in relation to Competitor safety in flipping and swimming assessments. These assessments only proceed if Competitor, Classifier and Safety Personnel are happy to do so.

3. Classification Environment

1. Controlled environment: Dry land and Flat water

- a. Competitor to have assistance (one person) for safety purposes
- b. Competitor evaluation is undertaken in the middle position of the raft on the competitor's preferred/strongest side. Classifier may ask competitor to change sides
- c. All adaptive equipment can be secured to the raft prior to Classification
- d. Any adaptive equipment must pass safety requirements before the classification procedure is performed

- e. Support seats to be in middle position during all classification
- f. Competitor must wear basic safety equipment during dry land classification
- g. On flat water an extra safety personnel is mandatory (qualified guide to IRF standards).
- h. On river classification only to proceed if Competitor, Safety personnel and classifier are happy to do so

2. **Dynamic environment:** River Class III section

- a. All on-river personnel must wear the basic safety equipment.
- b. Safety personnel is mandatory for on-river classification.
- c. River class must not exceed Class III and is to be in safe regular operations.
- d. River trip to be performed under IRF safety standards with Trip Leader.

4. Participants Duties during the Assessment

3. Classifier

a. Classifier must ensure that:

- i. All basic safety equipment is worn in all three assessments.
- ii. All adaptive equipment is safe and doesn't enhance competitor performance.
- iii. All adaptive equipment used in events must be used in all three assessments.
- iv. All adaptive equipment is registered, photographed and passes safety requirements.
- v. If the adaptive equipment has any safety issues on the dry land assessment the classification is to stop and not proceed under any circumstances.
- vi. Competitors understand the IRF safety talk.
- vii. Safety raft/kayak is included with all on water assessments.
- viii. Raft used in the assessment must be a similar type as used in IRF events (self-bailing, two thwart, 6 pax raft, outside line).
- ix. IRF safety procedures are followed at all times during all competitor evaluations.
- x. Conditions (e.g. weather, flows, water temperature, and availability of the on-water classification area and safety personnel) allow the competitor to perform at their full capacity and safety.
- xi. Classifiers may adapt or postpone the on-water test if the conditions inhibit the competitors to perform at their fullest or compromise their safety.

b. Classifier must:

- i. Bring:
 1. Camera to take photographs of adaptations/prosthetics, rafts etc. (High quality phone camera is sufficient.)
 2. Video camera (filming flat water from the riverside, we suggest using a tripod. High quality phone camera to video may be used if not too far away).
 3. Action camera/GoPro (can be attached on Classifier's helmet or front of raft).
 4. IRF Para Rafting Classification Form (plus pen and extra paper).
 5. IRF Para Rafting Competitors Physical Diagnosis Form.
 6. Competitor's prior information.
- ii. Not assist in any way.
- iii. Wear basic safety equipment at all times.
- iv. Be on the raft during the whole assessment except during aggressive swim and throw bag assessments where they are riverside.

4. **Competitor**

- a. Basic safety equipment plus whistle to be worn at all times.
- b. To bring paddle used during competition.
- c. Competitor must understand IRF safety briefing prior to river competitor evaluation.
- d. All adaptive equipment can be secured to the raft prior to competitor evaluation.
- e. Adaptive equipment to be positioned at the same place as during competition.
- f. Any adaptive equipment must pass safety requirements prior to assessment.
- g. Competitor evaluation is undertaken in the middle position of the raft on the competitor's preferred/strongest side, same as controlled environment classifications.
- h. Classifier may ask competitor to change sides if they believe there is an issue. If so classification in a controlled environment is repeated and documented.
- i. Competitor to have one other able body independent paddler on the raft during dynamic environment assessments, for paddle power (R2) and safety purposes.

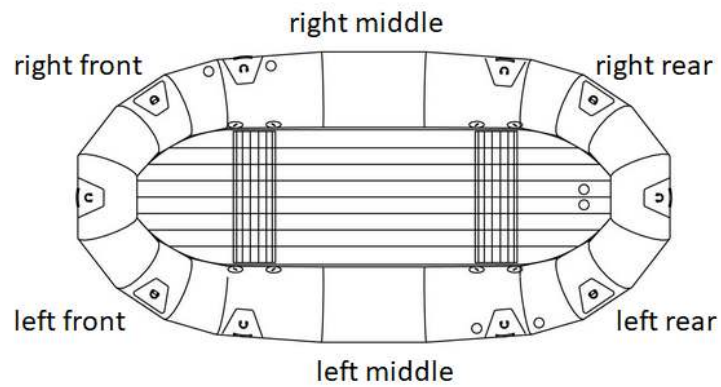
5. **Safety Personnel**

- a. The safety personnel is to be the trip leader to IRF standard (class III trip leader minimum requirement).
- b. Safety personnel are required to be in a separate safety raft or kayak.
- c. Safety personnel/trip leader must have:
 - i. Adequate experience and license to IRF standards class III trip leader.
 - ii. Communication ability to off river personnel.
 - iii. Spare paddle secured in the raft.
 - iv. First-aid kit and knowledge.
 - v. Rescue equipment:
 1. basic safety equipment (Rescue PFD)
 2. Throw bag
 3. River knife
 4. Whistle
 5. Sweep Kit

6. **Extra paddler for on-river classification**

- a. The extra paddler is to:
 - i. Have their own paddle.
 - ii. Wear the basic safety equipment plus whistle at all times.
 - iii. Ideally have some river experience.

5. Competitor and adaptation position in the raft



1. In all three assessments the position of the competitor and adaptation (if required) in the raft must be in the middle and on the strongest side for the competitor in relation to impairment. Discretion of Classifier, may ask Competitor to change sides.
2. During the on-river classification the competitor is to be positioned in the middle same side as Dry land and Flat water assessments. There will be one other paddler in the raft excluding the classifier. The raft will be paddled in an R2 configuration.