

## **Classification Rules for USA Paraclimbing October 2019**

Athletes with various physical disabilities and impairments are eligible to compete in the USA Paraclimbing competition. However, wide ranging degrees of impairment can lead to an imbalanced competitive environment for athletes. Accordingly, the Paraclimbing rules Classification Taskforce proposes a classification system intended to ensure fair opportunities and a level playing field.

The USAC Paraclimbing Classification Task Force:

Wayne Gearey, PhD – Chair [Wayne.Gearey@utdallas.edu](mailto:Wayne.Gearey@utdallas.edu)

Daniel Hill – Athlete Rep

Jessica Sparte – Athlete Rep

JenFu Cheng, MD – Member

Ziva Petrin, MD – Member

William Sullivan, MD – Member

Ben Mayforth – Member

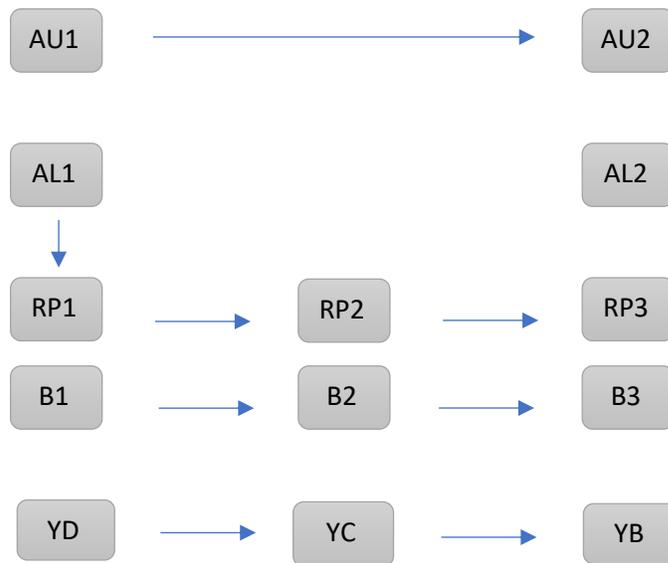
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## Category Merging

AL1 | AL2 | AU1 | AU2 | YD | YC | YB | B1 | B2 | B3 | RP1 | RP2 | RP3

If there are less than three competitors in a category, we will be merging categories as follows. Base categories would remain Upper Limb Amputee (AU), Lower Limb Amputee (AL), Range of Power (RP), Visually Impaired (B), and Youth. All base categories will have a male and a female section.



## Classification System for USA AC: Youth

Youth Includes participants aged eleven (11) and up to fifteen (15) years of age. Only competitors who are or will be at least 16 years of age in the year of the competition shall be eligible to compete as an adult at the Paraclimbing Cup or World Paraclimbing Championship competition.

**YB:** Ages 14-15

**YC:** Ages 12-13

**YD:** Ages 11 and under

\*Must be in age category on date of the nationals

## Classification System for USA Paraclimbing: Paraplegic (AL1)

**AL1 (Paraplegic):**

- 2 legs: no usable muscle function below waist
- Climbing method utilizes arms only

## Classification System for USA Paraclimbing: Amputee (AU1, AU2, AL2)

**AU1 (Upper Limb Amputee \*not allowed to use prosthetic)**

- 2 arms: full or combination of any arm amputation/deficiency per AU2 requirements
- 1 arm: full (shoulder disarticulation)

**AU2 (Upper Limb Amputee \*not allowed to use prosthetic)**

- At least 1 arm
  - Above and below elbow amputation
  - No hand (wrist joint may exist, no functionally usable finger joints)
- Minimum disability: All fingers (disarticulated phalanges of one or both hands)

**AL2 (Lower Limb Amputee \*prosthetics allowed)**

- 1 or 2 legs: Limb deficiency: Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
- Minimum disability
  - no ankle joint present (unless used as a knee via Rotationplasty)
  - leg limb discrepancy resulting in using a prosthetic to walk

## Classification System for USC Paraclimbing: Visually Impaired (B1, B2, B3)

### Eligibility Criteria

Vision impairment arises for a variety of reasons - genetics, prenatal developmental issues, or from illness or trauma. Vision impairment occurs when there is damage to one or more of the components of the vision system, which can include: impairment of the eye structure/receptors, impairment of the optic nerve/optic pathways, impairment of the visual cortex.

### Definition of Visual Classes

The determination of visual class will be based upon the eye with better visual acuity, whilst wearing best optical correction using spectacles or contact lenses, and/or visual fields which include central and peripheral zones. Athletes are required to forward a fully completed Medical Diagnostics Form by a certified ophthalmologist in advance of classification; athletes who do not present a fully completed form risk not being classified.

### Visual Classifications

**B1** (Visually Impaired: Completely or almost completely blind \*must wear blindfold during competition regardless of sight)

- No light perception in either eye up to light perception, and an inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
- Visual acuity lower than LogMAR 2.6.

**B2** (Visually Impaired: Moderately blind)

- From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
- Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.5 to 2.6 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees.

**B3** (Visually Impaired: Legally blind with corrective measures)

- From visual acuity above 20/600 and up to visual acuity of 20/200 and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
- Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.4 to 1.0 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees.

### What is a LogMAR?

A chart that comprises rows of letters and is used by ophthalmologists, optometrists and vision scientists to estimate visual acuity.

## Classification System for USC Paraclimbing: Range of Power (RP1, RP2, RP3)

Goal is to have the Range of Power (RP) categories (formerly called Neuro) still self-categorize themselves in 2020, with USAC able to overrule before and after competition if necessary.

### **RP1** (Range of Power: Sever impact)

- disability affects all body parts severely (hypertonia, impaired muscle power, ataxia)

### **RP2** (Range of Power: Moderate impact)

- disability affects all body parts moderately (hypertonia, impaired muscle power, ataxia)
- impairment of lower limbs creating walking difficulties or one limb severely affected

### **RP3** (Range of Power: Noticeable impact)

- Impaired passive range of movement: elbow, junction between elbow & wrist, wrist, waist, junction between waist and knee, knee, junction between knee and ankle
- noticeable hypertonia
- noticeable impaired muscle power
- athetosis creating an asymmetry

Competitors looking to compete in an RP category will fill out the following form but the form will not assist in categorization for 2020. Results of form will be used to check the validity of form. Validity suggestions: the 3 areas being tested may need to be weighted differently or the range of totals may need to be altered.

### **Sport Class Allocation**

Strength Total + ROM Total + Hypertonia/Coordination Total = Allocation Score

RP1	0-150
RP2	151-300
RP3	301-480

# Rules Review

Paraclimbing is a new sport and a variety of different impairments can result in reduced power; classification is an attempt to optimize placement of all athletes in order to ensure competition is between individuals of similar performance capabilities. These categories and standards will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Classification Task force and the Rules Committee. Additionally, when athletes from other countries compete at a USA Climbing event, the Paraclimbing competition will utilize USAC classification rules.

