



Classification

Minimal Disability Regulation Application Procedure

In order to be eligible to play in IWBF sanctioned events and to receive an IWBF International Player Classification Card a player must meet the minimum requirements set out in the IWBF Classification Regulations (F4) and the Player Classification Manual.

Minimal Disability classification does not take place at a game or tournament. It may only take place under the procedure outlined here. Furthermore as it can take up to six months to complete the review of the application, and as team lists must be submitted a minimum of 30 days in advance of any game or tournament, NOWBs are encouraged to apply in sufficient time for the review to be completed in time for the player to be registered.

IWBF will only accept applications for Minimal Disability classification from an NOWB. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the NOWB of the player to submit the application for consideration under the Minimal Disability classification of IWBF. There are two parts to the Application.

Part 1

1. A letter must be sent to the IWBF Secretariat by fax or email (see below for details) on NOWB letterhead requesting that the player named in the letter be considered under the Minimal Disability Regulation. The letter must contain the players full name, birth date and place of birth. In addition the following must be attached:

- a. A brief summary of the reason why the NOWB believes that the player is eligible to be classified as a Minimal Disability (MD) player. This should be prepared by an International or Zone classifier of the NOWB. If the NOWB does not have an International or Zone classifier they may have the summary prepared by someone that is familiar with the MD Regulation and the player.
- b. A brief explanation from the player as to why they believe that they can no longer play running basketball and wish to be considered as an MD player.

Note: No medical support documentation is to be sent with the application letter.

2. The fee for an application is USD 200.00 which is a non-refundable administrative fee. The NOWB must transfer this amount to the IWBF bank account for the request to be considered. (see below for details)

Upon receipt of the letter and the fee the IWBF Secretariat will inform the President of the Player Classification Commission of the Application.

Part 2

1. The IWBF Secretariat at the direction of the President of the Player Classification Commission will appoint a panel to review the application.

2. The IWBF Secretariat will contact the NOWB and instruct them where to send the documentation that is required to support the application. This documentation must be in English or a certified copy in English of the original document along with a copy of the original documentation. The documentation should include:

- a. A letter from the player's doctor outlining the problem and what treatments have been given to remedy the problem. It should also outline the prognosis and any further treatment options that are being considered.
- b. Such other medical, paramedical or medico-legal reports and/or investigation results, which clearly describe the nature and history of the player's disability that the NOWB believes, will support their application.
- c. A recent X-ray or MRI supporting the application.

3. The IWBF reserves the right to request further documentation if it is considered to be necessary.

4. The IWBF Secretariat at the direction of the President of the Player Classification Commission will inform the NOWB of the decision of the panel no later than 6 months after receipt of the application.

If the panel decides that the player meets the criteria for MD classification the player will be issued an IWBF International Player Classification Card at the first game or tournament they appear at where there is an IWBF International Classifier. The IWBF Secretariat can also issue a card if the NOWB requires one.

If the panel decides that the player does not meet the criteria for MD classification the NOWB has the right to request review by a second panel of the original documentation. The fee for this review is USD 500.00. If the review is successful the fee is refunded.

If the second panel determines that the player does not meet the criteria under the MD Regulation then the NOWB may not apply again for this player for a minimum of 1 year after the final decision is given. A re-application will only be accepted if the NOWB can demonstrate that there has been significant change in the player's situation. The non-refundable fee for a re-application under the MD regulation is USD 500.00.

It is important that all NOWBs understand that the application will not be considered as having been

received unless this procedure is followed.

Contact details:

IWBF Secretariat
108-181 Watson Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R2P 2P8

Phone: 1.204.632.6475
Fax: 1.204.415.6515
Email: IWBFSecretariat@aol.com or
IWBFSecretariat@shaw.ca

Bank details:

Bank Name: Barclays Bank plc
Bank Sort Code: 20-71-02
IBAN account: GB06 BARC 2043 6374036833
Bank Swift No: BARCGB22
Bank Address: The Pavement, St. Ives,
Cambridgeshire, PE27 5AQ,
England
Account Name: International Wheelchair
Basketball Federation Ltd
Account Number: 74036833

When, Whats and Whos about Minimal Disability

By Regina Costa and Bartosz Molik, IWBF Classifiers



In the past years there were some issues with the definition and procedures to apply for Minimal Disability (MD). Those problems

happened especially during Euro Cup tournaments where a few players couldn't play due to decision of classifiers. In order to prevent any future disappointments we would like to clarify this situation before next important competitions.

In the IWBF Classification Guide [2004] there is a definition of Minimal Disability:

"For acceptance in the IWBF a wheelchair basketball player must meet the following criteria:

- a) *a wheelchair basketball player is unable to run, pivot or jump at a speed and with the control, safety, stability and endurance of an able-bodied player*
- b) *a wheelchair basketball player has a permanent physical disability in the lower limbs which can be objectively verified by acknowledged medical and/or paramedical investigations such as measurement, x-ray, CT, MRI, etc.*

For the purpose of IWBF Classification, degrees of pain are not considered as measurable and permanent disabilities."

This definition appears to be clear; however functional classifiers are not able to check the new player (candidate for MD) just before the beginning of the games. It's not possible to make a fair classification of any athletes when the impairment (dysfunction) is not visible.

We are not able to objectively answer, after only observation, one simple question: "Does *this player meet the criteria to be MD or not?*". This decision is up to the Classification Commission of IWBF, not for the Classification Panel.



In such cases the procedure is clear.

The first thing to do is gather all the medical and/or paramedical information of the player, concerning the disability of the lower limb/s and have it translated in English – official language of IWBF. Other helpful documents are medical reports regarding the clinical and functional situation but always take in consideration that these should mention the physical situation and not why he/she should be eligible to play wheelchair basketball. As mentioned the documents have to be in English and all which are translated into English must have copies of the originals and certification of legally sworn accurate translation.

A national classifier must prepare a report with recommendations and send all documentation to IWBF who will be responsible to forward them to Don Perriman, Chairman of Classification Commission. Finally documentation will be sent to specialists (classifiers, medical doctors and physiotherapist) who are responsible for evaluating the case and present their opinion about candidate for MD.

The final result will be sent to the NOWB by the President of IWBF, Mauren Orchard, at least 3 months before the beginning of the Tournament.

As you can see it's a long process so deadlines were created in order to allow you to prepare for the competition, so all this documentation should be received by IWBF at least 6 months before the Tournament in which the player wants to participate.