

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WR4GD PASS (ver1.1)

Instructions for completing the EDGA WR4GD application form

The only requirement is to decide whether the disability is severe enough to qualify against the definitions of impairment. This is judged using measurements of the 10 eligible impairments used by the Paralympic Movement shown below:

	IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
A	IMPAIRED MUSCLE POWER	Reduced force generated by muscle or muscle groups, may occur in one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused by example, by spinal cord injuries, Spina Bifida or Poliomyelitis.
B	IMPAIRED PASSIVE RANGE OF MOVEMENT	Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently. Joints that can move beyond the average range of motion, joint instability and acute conditions such as arthritis are not considered eligible impairments.
C	LIMB DEFICIENCY	Total or partial absence of bones or joints, from birth or as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident or amputation, illness (e.g. bone cancer).
D	LEG/ARM LENGTH DIFFERENCE	Bone shortening in one leg/arm from birth or trauma etc.
E	SHORT STATURE	Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk.
F	HYPERTONIA	Abnormal increase in muscle tension – reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, which can result in injury, illness or a health condition such as cerebral palsy.
G	ATAXIA	Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
H	ATHETOSIS	Generally characterized by unbalanced, uncontrolled, movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture – due to cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis or other conditions.
I	VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerve/pathways or part of the brain controlling vision (visual cortex).
J	INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT	Limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills, which originates before the age of 18.

Qualifying factors for participation are the types and the magnitudes of impairment with regard to leg range of motion and strength, grip, arm length, two hands, shoulder range of motion and strength, elbow range of motion and strength, back range of motion, vision, balance and neurology. Major impairment in any of these functions, or in combinations, will qualify for participation.

We recommend that professional examiners have some personal experience and knowledge of golf so that they are aware of the restrictions and difficulties, which will occur with regard to playing golf.

- Range of motion is measured based on the anatomical position.
- Strength is measured in a scale from 0-5 (see below).

If a player, previously approved, for any reason has a changed impairment, this change must be reported to the authority giving the license immediately.

It is only necessary to fill in information relevant to the disability relating to the application for a WR4GD Pass.

TESTING METHODS TO BE USED

Muscle Testing (Power scale)

Daniels-Worthingham

- 0** Total lack of voluntary contraction.
- 1** Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker).
- 2** Contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated.
- 3** Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity
- 4** Contraction with full range of movement against gravity and some resistance.
- 5** Contraction of normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance.

Spasticity Grade Scale for Muscle Tone (Spasticity/stiffness)

Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale

- 0** No catch on rapid passive movement (RPM).
- 1** Catch occurs on the RPM followed by release; there is no resistance to RPM throughout the remaining range.
- 2** Catch occurs in the second half of the available range (after the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.
- 3** Catch occurs in the first half of the available range (up to and including the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.
- 4** When attempting RPM, the body part appears fixed but moves on slow passive movement.

Reflexes

- 0** No response
- 1** Diminished
- 2** Normal
- 3** Brisker than normal
- 4** Very brisk
- 5** Sustained Clonus

Neurological Co-ordination tests / Ataxia

- **Finger to nose test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch his own nose with his index finger from the crucifix position with the eyes closed.

- **Finger to finger test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch both index fingers from the crucifix position with the eyes closed.
 - **Finger to toe test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch his own toe with the index finger with the eyes closed.
 - **Heel draw test:** Draw the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral leg, from ankle to knee and then in the reverse direction.
 - **Romberg test:** Stand with feet together and both arms in a horizontal position in extension. When the player closes the eyes and is not able to stand still the Romberg sign is positive.
- Tandem Romberg:** Straight line heel to toe walking.

DISABILITIES QUALIFYING FOR A WR4GD PASS

1/ Amputees of lower limbs and leg length

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

An amputation on Syme level or above on at least one side

2/ Amputees of upper limbs and arm length

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

An amputation of any part of the upper limb leading to a complete lack of grip on either side.

3/ Joint and muscular disorders

HIP:

Normal Range:

Full flexion = 130 °

Full extension = 20 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- a complete stiff hip joint in neutral position with no movement in any direction OR
- a flexion contracture of 35 ° on either side will qualify.

Strength in abduction, extension and flexion below Grade 3.

At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity must be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

KNEE:

Normal Range:

Full flexion = 135 °

Full extension = 0 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

A complete stiff knee in extension with no movement in any direction or flexion contracture of 30 ° or more on at least one side will qualify – OR -

Strength reduction in both flexion and extension below Grade 3 (see scale) will be eligible.

At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity must be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

ANKLE:

If the only disability is a stiff ankle, the player is not eligible for a WR4GD pass.

GRIP:***Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass***

Complete lack of grip on one side due to joints stiffness or lack of muscle power and function will be eligible.

WRIST:

Normal Range:

Extension = 60 °

Flexion = 75 °

Total radio-ulnar deviation = 70 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Extension on the right side of less than 10° together with of no more than 5° radio-ulnar deviation will qualify for the right-handed player and the same on the left for the left-handed player.

AND/OR

Strength below Grade 3 in extension or radio-ulnar deviation in the right hand of the right-handed player and left hand for the left-handed player will be eligible.

SHOULDER:

Normal Range:

- Full flexion = 150 °
- Full extension = 50 °
- Full external rotation = 60 °
- Full internal rotation = 60 °
- Full abduction = 180 °
- Full adduction = 60 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Range of motion in either shoulder is:

- less than 30 ° adduction or abduction
- less than 20 ° flexion
- less than 45 ° rotation

Impaired extension does not qualify.

Strength below Grade 3 on resisted abduction, adduction, external rotation and flexion, will be eligible.

At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity must be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

ELBOW:

Normal Range:

- Full flexion = 150 °
- Full extension = 0 °
- Full pronation = 90 °
- Full supination = 90 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD

Contracture /deformity

- Flexion contracture/deformity of more than 45° on one side.
- Pronation and supination less than 45° on either side.

Right-handed player who:

- cannot flex the right elbow beyond 90° on the right side or
- cannot flex the left elbow beyond 60° or
- has less than 30° of pronation or supination on either side

Left-handed player who:

- cannot flex the left elbow beyond 90° on the left side or
- cannot flex the right elbow beyond 60° or
- has less than 30° of pronation or supination on either side

Strength below Grade 3 in resisted flexion, extension, pronation and supination on either side.

BACK AND NECK RANGE OF MOTION:

Rotation of the back and neck is fundamental in a golf swing whereas other trunk movements are of less importance. Measurement should be taken with the pelvis fixed.

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD

Thoracolumbar rotation of less than 10° or cervical spine rotation less than 20° will be eligible.

Other impairments such as reduced flexion/extension, and side flexion movements do not qualify.

LEG LENGTH/ARM LENGTH DIFFERENCE

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD

- Leg length difference should be at least 20 cm to qualify.
- Arm length difference should be at least 15 cm to qualify.

The leg length has to be measured between the greater trochanter and the medial malleolus.

The arm length should be measured supine, with the shoulder at 90° and from the acromion to the tip of the longest finger.

SHORT STATURE

Players must be over 18 years

- When both legs are short, the length of the person and the legs are to be given in cm.
- The leg length has to be measured between the greater trochanter and the medial malleolus.
- When both arms are short, the length of the person and the arms are to be given in cm.
- The arm length should be measured supine, with the shoulder at 90° and from the acromion to the tip of the longest finger.
- If an arm contracture is present the measurement will be the same.

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- Males 145 cm or less AND the arm length is less than 66 cm AND the standing height + the sum of the standing height and longest arm length must be 200 cm or less
- Females 137 cm or less AND the arm length is less than 63 cm AND the standing height + the sum of the standing height and longest arm length must be 190 cm or less

4/ NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Neurological disorders include impairments such as spasticity, tested according to the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale, athetosis or other impairments that cause severe difficulties to perform a normal golf swing.

a/ Hypertonia

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Monoplegia– Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the upper limb

Hemiplegia – Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the upper limb and marked movement and balance problems in the lower limb on affected side.

Diplegia - Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the lower limbs but able to stand and swing and walk.

In cases of doubt the player has to be observed by the Classifier during training or competition.

b/ Athetosis

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Athetosis must be demonstrable and clearly evident during classification. Clearly evident athetosis is an unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable in one of the following tests:

- Involuntary movements of the fingers/toes or upper/lower extremities, despite the person trying to remain still.
- Inability to hold the body still, swaying of the body.

In cases of doubt the player has to be observed by the Classifier during training or competition.

5/ CARDIOPULMONARY DISORDERS & NORMAL AGEING, HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

Not eligible

6/ IMPAIRED VISION

This category is presently under review

7/ INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Classification for these conditions will be undertaken by INAS on behalf of EDGA. The process presently being finalised is likely to begin in quarter 2 of 2019. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 18 years of age.

The number of disabilities included is growing and categories presently accepted are:

- *Significant impairment* in intellectual functioning. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean, that is, a Full-Scale score of 75 or lower.
- *Autism (ASD)*
- *Downs Syndrome or other Complex disorders.*

More information to follow and on the INAS website. <https://inas.org/>

8/ CUMULATIVE DISORDERS

In some cases, there are multiple disorders, which do not qualify solely, but cumulatively result in severe difficulty to perform a normal golf swing, then the golfer can be eligible. Reports from both the Classifier and Chief Classifier are compulsory after investigation and observation. Investigation and observation always takes place with all the aids and supports the golfer needs to play normally in tournaments.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1/ Changed impairment

If a player, previously approved, for any reason has a changing impairment, it must be reported to the authority giving the license immediately. The authority giving the license then has to decide the course of action with respect to a new medical examination or not, for a continued license. The penalty for violation of this rule has to be decided by the Rules and Disciplinary Committee.

2/ Permanently wheelchair bound

A player permanently in a wheelchair in daily life, with a normal grip and swing in at least one hand and arm, is eligible for an WR4GD pass.

3/ Golf club aids

Classification investigation and observation always takes place with all the aids and support the golfer needs to play normally in tournaments. Assuming that all tournaments are played to The EGA handicap system, the most significant aspect is that the aids, support and assistance is taken into consideration when assessing the handicap. The provided aids, support and assistance have to be in accordance with the Modification of the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities as published by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. In international tournaments The EGA handicap has to be fairly and equally assessed.

4/ Use of buggy

The general intention is that buggies are only allowed in tournaments for those who have an urgent or absolute need related to the impairment that makes them eligible. Players who are eligible due to disorders of the lower extremities neurological or balance problems should have a buggy.

If it can be considered that a medical condition can be worsened by walking or for safety reasons a buggy should be provided. Golfers with only upper extremity impairments are not allowed to use a buggy. In case of doubt the Chief Classifier of the tournament will make a final decision.

On some courses/venues buggies may be mandatory – players will be expected to comply and use them

5/ Classification Code of Conduct / Code of Ethics

The code is included in these Definitions of Impairments, being the same as those used by all Paralympic sports organisations and can be found in the IPC handbook section 2 chapter 1.1.

6/ Decisions

A Senior Classifier appointed by the Eligibility Committee will confirm the results of the classification and approves the players eligibility. At each EDGA Access Tournament there will be also a Classifier.

Each country is also very strongly recommended to follow these rules in their national tournaments. We recommend that the national Classifier have both personal experience and knowledge of golf so as to be aware of, and familiar with the restrictions and difficulties, which will occur with regard to playing golf.

All the reports for evaluation, written in English, have to be sent to the Head of Classification.

7/ Protests

Any player can be subject to protest, and only if the sport rules and regulations allow for such a protest. All protests must be lodged in accordance with the policies and procedures as detailed in this guide in

order to be considered. A player may only be subject to one protest during each season. Anyone can lodge a protest. All protests must be submitted on the Classification Protest Form and submitted as stated below.

The forms are available at the Head Classifier's desk. In order for a protest to be considered by the Head Classifier, all sections of the Classification Protest Form must be completed in their entirety, in English and without error. The Classification Protest Forms must be signed by the Chief Classifier present at the tournament and the NPC Chef de Mission or his/her authorised representative.

Protests must be submitted before the last competitor has left the 10th tee of the last round of the tournament.

A protest submitted is subject to a fee of 200 euros equivalent, paid in cash to the Head Classifier. The Head Classifier has to make his decision, eligible or not, not later than two hours after the last player has finished the last hole of the tournament. In the case that a protest is upheld, the amount paid will be refunded. The final protest decision will be documented on the official Classification Protest Form. The original form will be kept by the Head Classifier and copies will be distributed to the player concerned. It is the responsibility of the Head Classifier to inform the player and the national representatives of the final decision of a protest. If a player does not appear for classification re-evaluation, the player will be deemed ineligible to compete further in the current tournament.

8/ Appeals

The term "appeal" refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which a player's evaluation procedure has been conducted. An appeal can be made to the Head Classifier not after the first competitor has left the 1st tee of the tournament.

It must be emphasised that the identity of a player who has been subject to a protest and/ or an appeal, may not be publicly disclosed by anyone to whose knowledge it might have come before completion of the protest or appeal procedure.

9/ Duration of license

The WR4GD Pass is valid for the period stated on the Pass unless:

- The eligibility criteria are revised
- There are changes in the participant's disability.