

WORLD CURLING CLASSIFICATION RULES AMENDMENT

Unilateral Above Knee (Trans-femoral) Amputation – Limb Deficiency

Entry into force: Beginning of the 2026–2027 season

Status: Draft for adoption and publication

Introduction and Rationale

The purpose of including athletes with unilateral amputations is to ensure meaningful access to wheelchair curling and to provide a clear pathway to compete at the highest level. This approach supports participation that is fair, transparent, and grounded in the impact of an athlete's impairment on the fundamental activities of the sport, while recognizing the diversity of impairments within the eligible population. It is intended to broaden opportunities for athletes to enter and develop within the sport—from initial competitive participation through to elite performance—while maintaining confidence in the integrity of the classification system and the competitive structure. This amendment was consulted with World Curling Member Associations, and the feedback received was supportive, with Member Associations expressing their favour for its adoption and implementation.

1. Authority and Compliance Statement

This Amendment is adopted as part of the World Curling Federation (WCF) Classification Rules and is intended to be applied and interpreted in a manner consistent with the IPC Athlete Classification Code and the International Standards. This Amendment specifies:

- (i) Eligible Impairment and Minimum Impairment Criteria provisions
- (ii) Transition rules associated with changes to Sport Class criteria.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Amendment concerns the sport-specific Minimum Impairment Criteria for Wheelchair Curling and does not alter the general definitions of Eligible Impairment, Underlying Health Condition, Diagnostic Information, Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class or Sport Class Status.

2. Scope of Amendment

This Amendment:

1. change “unilateral hip disarticulation” to “unilateral above knee (trans-femoral) amputation” as an impairment meeting Minimum Impairment Criteria under Appendix One, Article 2.4 (Limb Deficiency);

2. clarifies that the Minimum Impairment Criteria applied to this impairment shall be identical to the criteria applied to bilateral above knee amputation as defined in the Classification Rules;
3. states that Appendix One, Article 2.5.1 (Multiple Sub-minimal impairments) will not be in effect from the beginning of the 2026–2027 season;
4. introduces transitional measures for Athletes previously allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) solely because unilateral above knee amputation did not meet the then-applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria; and
5. introduces participation limitations for Mixed Team and Mixed Doubles categories.

3. Appendix One – Article 2 (Minimum Impairment Criteria)

Athletes must meet at least one of the following Minimum Impairment Criteria:

Acquired or congenital limb deficiency – Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) revised:

- Unilateral above knee dysmelia
- Unilateral above knee / trans-femoral amputation.
- Unilateral through-knee (knee disarticulation) amputation
- Acquired unilateral through-knee limb deficiency or an equivalent congenital limb deficiency (e.g. Congenital Femoral Deficiency), with or without a distal foot or ankle joint.
- Bilateral below-knee limb deficiency.
 - Bilateral congenital dysmelia equivalent to bilateral trans-tibial amputation.
 - Bilateral dysmelia equivalent to bilateral transfemoral amputation (e.g. Congenital Femoral Deficiency), including presentations with a distal foot with or without an ankle joint.”
- Through-ankle (Syme’s) amputation does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria.
- Bilateral below knee / trans-tibial amputation: through ankle amputation (Symes amputation) is not eligible.

3.2 Appendix One – Article 2.5 (Multiple Sub-minimal impairments)

Note (effective from the beginning of the 2026–2027 season): Article 2.5.1 is not in effect. Unilateral above knee (trans-femoral) amputation will be assessed exclusively under Article 2.4 (Limb deficiency) and Article 2.4.5, and not under any Multiple Sub-minimal impairments provision.

Rationale: According to the 2025 Code, the Classification rules must define the Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment. The Code does not allow there to be the provision for an athlete to pass Stage 3 based on a combination of Eligible Impairments that individually do not meet the defined Minimum Impairment Criteria

4. Participation Limitations

To safeguard the integrity of competition and to protect athletes with greater impairment, these participation limitations are introduced to ensure that team composition remains consistent with the purpose of the Classification System and does not create an unintended competitive advantage. The intent is to maintain confidence that outcomes are not disproportionately influenced by team selection strategies that favor lesser activity limitation within the eligible impairment spectrum. Accordingly, these limitations are also designed to prevent teams being composed exclusively, or predominantly, of athletes with unilateral amputations, which could undermine equitable competitive opportunities for athletes with more severe activity limitation.

Accordingly, the following participation limitations apply to athletes meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria under Appendix One, Article 2.4.5 (unilateral above knee / trans-femoral amputation):

1. **Mixed Team category: A maximum of two (2) such Athletes from the same team may be on the ice at any one time.**
2. **Mixed Doubles category: A maximum of one (1) such Athlete from the same team may be on the ice at any one time.**

Athlete with unilateral hip disarticulation classified as Eligible under the current rule is not subject to this regulation.

5. Transitional Measures and Reclassification

Athletes previously allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)

Athletes who were previously allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) solely because unilateral above knee (trans-femoral) amputation did not meet the then-applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria shall be redesignated as Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Review (R) (NE-R) and shall be required to complete Re-Evaluation before their next Competition.

Pending completion of Re-Evaluation under this Amendment, such athletes are not permitted to compete unless and until allocated a Sport Class other than Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

6. Implementation in the Next Published Version

This Amendment enters into force from the beginning of the 2026–2027 season and shall be implemented through the publication of the next updated version of the Classification Rules.