



PADDLEABILITY

Events

The following are the PaddleAbility events for the 2009 Canoe Sprint World Championships.

BOAT	GENDER	CATEGORY	Distance
<i>K1</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>LTA</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>K1</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>LTA</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>K2</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>TA & A</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>V2</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>LTA & TA</i>	<i>200</i>

Boats

- K-1 max. length 520 cm
 min. width 50 cm (measured 10cm from the bottom of the hull)
 min. weight 12 kg.
- K-2 max. length 650 cm
 min. width 47 cm (measured 10cm from the bottom of the hull)
 min. weight 18 kg.
 (The rudder may be fixed)
- V-2 The boat to be used is the "Albatross" by Pola Kayaks of Hungary.
 (The rudder may be fixed)

(For the 2009 Canoe Sprint World Championships, wider, longer, heavier boats or kayaks with pontoons for stability will be permitted as long as the boat is not faster due to the modification. Photographs of such boats or kayaks with pontoons need to be sent to John Edwards at jhedwards@canoekayak.ca for approval & confirmation prior to the World Championships.

Safety

All competitors are required to wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) appropriate for their body weight.

SPORT CLASSIFICATIONS

ICF recognizes three (3) sport classes for PaddleAbility: LTA, TA, A. The International Va'a Federation (IVF) recognizes six (6) sport classes. The following classifications blend the two classification systems.

LTA *(IVF 5 & 6 Point Paddler)*

The LTA class is for paddlers with a disability who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for paddling, and who can apply force to the foot board or the seat to propel the boat. Eligible LTA paddlers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputee
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CPISRA)

LTA paddlers must meet minimum disability requirements:

LTA - The minimum physical disability is a full loss of three fingers on one hand, or at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot, or the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the *Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities* and the *ICF Classifiers Instructors Manual*.

TA *(IVF 4 Point Paddler)*

The TA class is for paddlers who have functional use of the trunk and arms. They are unable to apply continuous and controlled force to the footboard or seat to propel the boat due to significantly weakened function of the lower limbs. Eligible TA paddlers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly impaired quadriceps, or
- Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or
- Combination of the above such as one leg with around knee amputation and one leg with significant quadriceps impairment; or
- Classification by the international sports federation for paddlers with cerebral palsy (CPISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

A *(IVF 1 – 3 Point Paddler)*

The A class is for paddlers who have no trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only). An A class paddler is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders. These athletes will likely also have poor sitting balance. Eligible paddlers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA); or
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10.

Changing Sport Classifications

Sport Classifications can only change due to changes in medical conditions or the change in the use of a prostheses/orthotic. Improvements in stroke technique will not result in the changing of a classification

Paddling Outside of Assigned Sport Class:

Paddlers may compete in a more functional sport class than their assigned sport class, but not a less functional sport class. For example, a paddler classified as TA may compete in LTA events, but may not compete in A events.

General Comments

The ICF's objective for PaddleAbility is inclusion: to provide the opportunity for paddlers with a disability to compete at World Canoe Sprint Championships and international Regattas. ICF is responsible for the classification of PaddleAbility Athletes who wish to compete at an international level and has established classification criteria which define the minimum disability of a paddler permitted to compete in each of the designated event classes. Before a paddler can compete in a World Canoe Sprint Championship or an international regatta, Sport Class and Sport status of the paddler must be approved by ICF.

Classification places paddlers in groupings with other paddlers of similar levels of functional ability to provide competition which is as fair as possible. The ICF recognizes and accepts the respective classifications encompass a range of disabilities and there will be paddlers with disabilities which may be greater than the minimum and who may therefore be at a disadvantage competing in their adaptive boat class.

These classification system will continue to be revised as the ICF works to improve its classification procedures as well as working to harmonize its classification procedures with the International Standards set out in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code.

The ICF acknowledges and is working with the International Va'a Federation (IVF) classification system which ICF recognizes as in the interest of all PaddleAbility athletes worldwide.

PaddleAbility Camp at Halifax

A PaddleAbility Camp will be held on Aug. 10 and 11 in Halifax. The purpose of the camp is to conduct the classification process and to share experiences on how to run successful PaddleAbility programs:

1. Classify PaddleAbility athletes
2. Coordinate boat use for the Worlds
3. Discuss coaching techniques
4. Present adaptations & modifications currently in use.
5. Discuss the ICF expansion plan for the next year.