IWRF Technical Classifier Trial

At the 2016 IWRF General Assembly the membership put forward a successful motion asking the IWRF to introduce athlete representation to the classification process. The IWRF will undertake a trial where ex-athletes undergo training to participate as members of classification panels at IWRF events that are sanctioned for classification.

The IWRF Classification Committee has been working hard on modifications to our current classification rules to add provisions for technical classifiers. Technical classifiers are people who have an extensive athletic, coaching or other relevant background in Wheelchair Rugby, and therefore have knowledge of the sport that adds value to the technical and observation assessments during classification. Technical classifiers will work alongside existing classifiers who have health professional backgrounds.

During the trial period, technical classifiers will be required to attend tournaments as trainees in order to be certified as IWRF classifiers. Trainees will be expected to undergo the same training as all other classifiers, but will not be expected or be certified to perform the medical assessment (bench test) components of the classification process such as manual muscle testing.

The IWRF will provide:

- On-site training at appropriate events.
- Opportunities to discuss the role with certified classifiers
- Provide a clear pathway for development and certification
- Funding to attend an appropriate event ONLY after successful certification and appropriate selection to a Panel.

Technical classifier will need to:

- Provide proof of experience and background information of any relevant qualifications
- Be able to fund their own travel, accommodation and food for the duration of the event being attended (this is only whilst an individual is considered a trainee)
- Be responsible for developing the skills acquired at a national level
- Be willing to abide by the IWRF Code of Conduct

For the purposes of this trial, the IWRF is looking for ex-athletes who meet the following criteria:

- Ex-international level athlete whose name appears on the IWRF Classification Masterlist or database.
- Be retired from international competition (The length of retirement should ideally be no more 4 years but consideration will be given for any ex-athlete on a case-by-case basis).
• Have no other role with any National Wheelchair Rugby team (including but not limited to coaching, support or administration staff).

The trial will be ongoing over the next 2 years and will be reviewed and reported on at the General Assembly in 2020.

If you are interested in participating in this trial, please contact Jens Sauerbier at jsauerbier@iwrf.com.