



# CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Annual General Meeting  
September 2015

## CLASSIFICATION STATISTICS FOR 2015

### CANADA GAMES, Prince George, BC

Classification Panel: Anne Lachance (QC) HC  
Karen Ferguson (NB)  
Tim Frick (BC)

- Number of teams: 9  
Number of players in tournament: 99 (71 classifiable)  
Number of players reviewed: 35
- New players: 25 (10 able-bodied; 15 classifiable)
  - Former Mini players: 6
  - Formal Appeals: 3 (all granted)
  - Classification adjustments at the end of the tournament: 1

### CWBL NATIONALS, Scarborough, ON

Classification Panel: Cher Smith (NS) HC  
Clary Stubbert (NS)  
Tami Milne (ON)

- Number of players in tournament: 83 (18 classifiable)  
Number of players reviewed: 11
- New players: 7 (0 able-bodied; 7 classifiable)
  - Formal Appeals: 1 (granted)
  - Former Mini Player: 3 (2 went down)
  - Classification adjustments at the end: 0

### CWBL WOMEN'S FINALS, Calgary, AB

Classification Panel: Anne Lachance (QC) HC  
Sandy Loewen (MB)  
Karen Gillespie (MB)

- Number of players in tournament: 46 (28 classifiable)  
Number of players reviewed: 7
- New players: 6 (1 classifiable; 2 possible MDs)
  - Former Mini players: 0
  - Formal Appeals: 1 (granted)
  - Classification adjustments at the end: 0

## NEW PLAYERS IN 2015

39 players were issued WBC National classification cards in 2015. Of those:

<b>Males</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>A-B</b>
Mini Division									2
Junior Division	7	2			3		2		4
Open Division		2	2	1	1	1			

<b>Females</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>A-B</b>
Mini Division									
Junior Division		1			1			4	
Open Division			1						5

Nova Scotia was the most active in presenting 10 new players to a WBC-sanctioned event. Manitoba follows closely with 9. Ontario (7), BC (4), New Brunswick (2), Alberta (2), Ontario (1), PEI (1), NFLD (1), Saskatchewan (1) and Quebec (1) follow.

## CLASSIFIER DUTY IN 2015

8 classifiers were officially involved in classification this season

Cher Smith (NS)

Tim Frick (BC)

Karen Ferguson (NB)

Anne Lachance (QC)

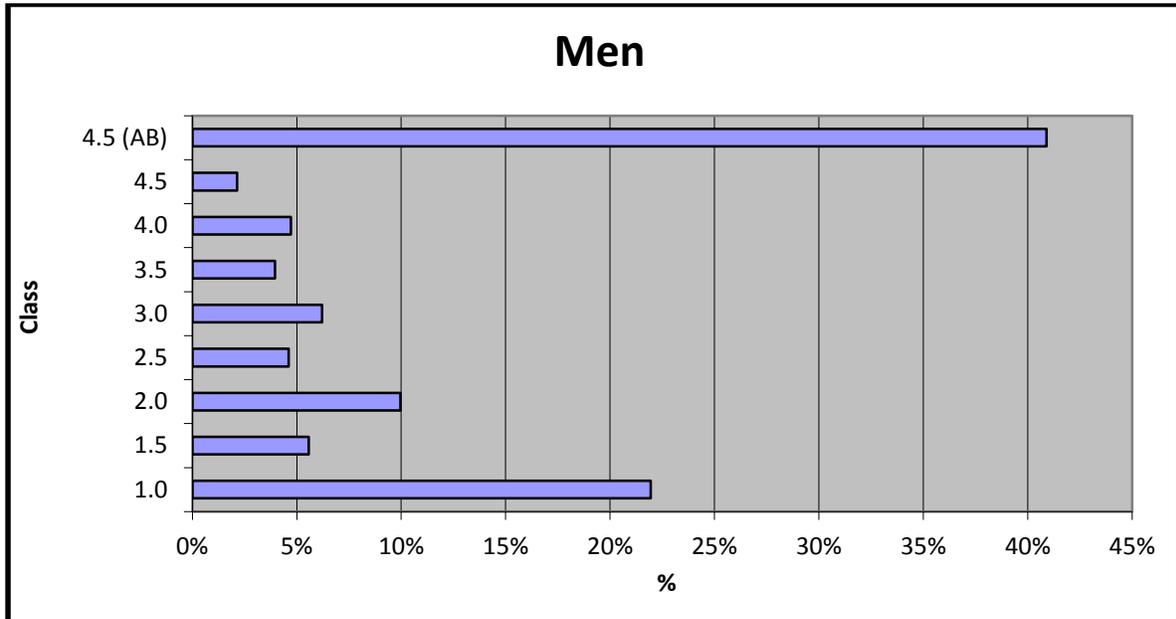
Clary Stubbert (NS)

Sandy Loewen (MB)

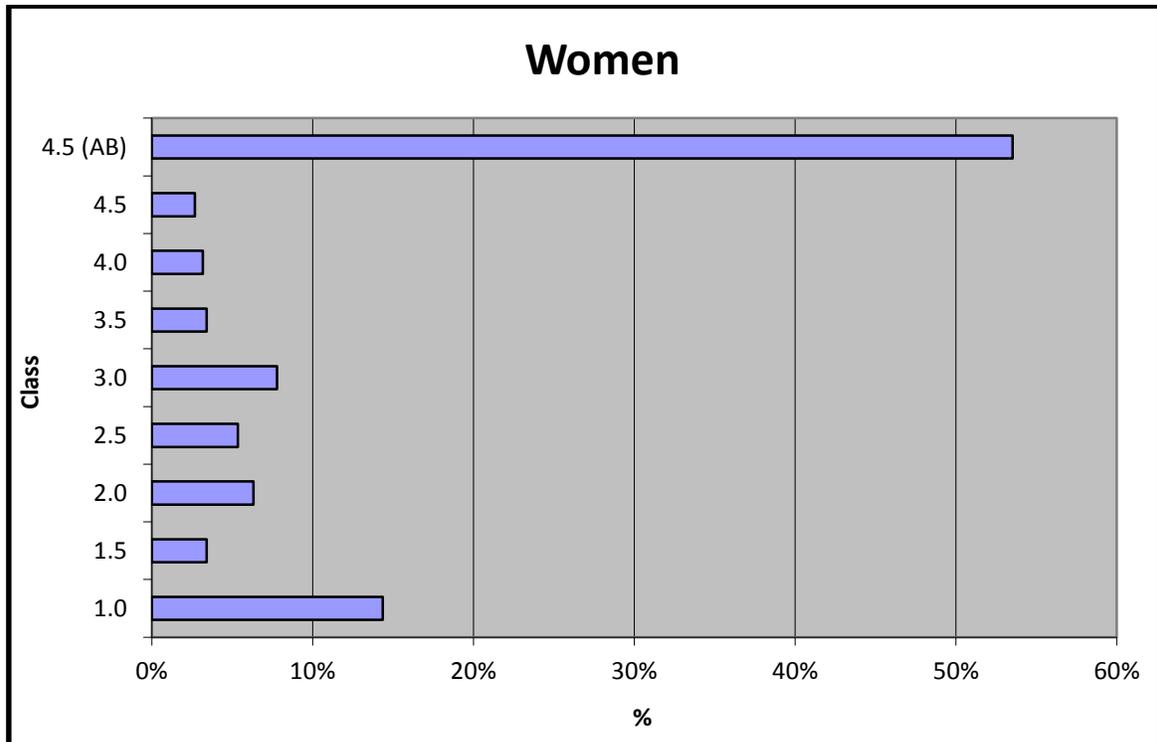
Tami Turner Milne (ON)

Karen More Gillespie (MB)

There are now 934 male players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



There are 411 female players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



## **PROVINCIAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Provincial Classification Cards:**

We continued this season to produce classification cards for players classified by local classifiers during local events. Classifiers in BC submitted information for 7 players classified locally. Manitoba classifiers submitted information for 9 players, Maritimes for 12 and Quebec for 22. This represents a sizeable increase with respect to previous years and we hope that PSO's will continue to invite their classifiers at their local events.

## **DOMESTIC LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Sanctioned events:**

This past season, 3 panels of classifiers were assembled to cover Canada Games, CWBL Nationals and Women's Finals. Canada Games was extremely busy and we experienced a number of issues with our procedures. During the tournament the panel drafted a new set of procedures (see Annex A) and submitted it for approval to WBC's domestic committee. The changes proposed can be summarized as follows:

### **Classifying Junior Players:**

During CG 2015 Alberta suggested we maintain under review (i.e. open for change at any time during the preliminary rounds) any player still eligible to play in the mini Division (i.e. 17 or younger) rather than only the first year they present as former minis. We feel this is a reasonable request. We have reviewed our classification procedures to include this change (see Annex A)

### **Reviewing IWBf Classes:**

WBC Classifiers are mandated to follow the IWBf Classification System as closely as possible using the written manual, the library of videos as well as any precedents established by IWBf to guide decisions. Our current procedures however allow players classified internationally to request a review of their class with WBC. This puts our panel in a difficult situation and we feel that players who were recently classified by IWBf should play with the IWBf classes unless their function is significantly altered. We have reviewed our classification procedures to include this proposed change (see Annex A).

### **Requesting reviews of another team's player:**

During Canada Games 2015 two teams openly considered requesting a review of another team's player. Both teams were surprised and disappointed to see that in our current procedures, modified in 2010 to align with IWBf, requests for reviews of another team's player can be made however the fee is not returned if the request is granted and the change (if any) is only effective at the end of the tournament. Quebec suggested we modify this, we discussed it at some length, agreed to propose it and included this change in the draft for our new procedures (see Annex A).

### **Classification Clinics:**

Canada Games year being very busy for classifiers we did not hold a classification clinic during the course of this season. We hope to offer a refresher and/or a clinic next season.

### **Seating Clinics:**

I spent one week at the Academy this past season. My work was to collaborate with biomechanics specialists at designing a system to analyze more effectively the optimal seating of a high performance athlete. The Academy now has a fully adjustable prototype chair that looks very promising but unfortunately it was not ready to be used the week I was on site.

### **Classification Data Base:**

The Data Base is being kept up to date. It can produce reports based on various variables for example how many class 1.0 players were classified in the last two years or how many classifiable players were classified in the last 20 years in Manitoba, etc. Anyone interested in such numbers is welcomed to contact us. We also keep a parallel data base consisting of scans of all the classification cards produced in the last 20 years in Canada. These scans are available upon request, again just e-mail us.

## **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Classification of Canadian Athletes at IWBF events**

Six players were presented for classification on the international scene: Peter Won's class 2.5 was confirmed; Élodie Tessier's class 3.0 was confirmed; Danielle Arbour's class 2.5 was changed to a class 3.0; Zoe Hahn's class 3.0 was confirmed; Sara Black's class 1.0 was confirmed and Rosalie Lalonde's class 2.5 was confirmed.

Official reclassification requests were submitted for three national team athletes: Heleina Cyr's and Elaine Allard's requests were denied. Deion Green's request for a class 3.5 was granted.

### **IWBF Eligibility Applications (formally referred to as Minimal Disability)**

I often get questions on this so here is some general information. In order to be eligible to play wheelchair basketball in competitions held under the jurisdiction of IWBF a player who does not have a lower extremity impairment which can be clearly established by observation needs to apply for consideration of their eligibility to the IWBF.

Eligibility is determined using the following criteria:

- a) A wheelchair basketball player must have a permanent physical disability which, in the opinion of the IWBF, reduces the function of the lower limbs to a degree where they

cannot run, pivot or jump at the speed and with the control, safety, stability and endurance required to play running basketball as an able bodied player.

- b) The disability must be such that it can be objectively verified by acknowledged medical and/or paramedical investigations such as measurement, X-ray, CT, MRI, etc.
- c) Persons who have had hip or knee joint replacements and have provided confirmation of the relevant surgery from their attending physician or surgeon and supporting X-rays/scans are deemed to have met the eligibility criteria.
- d) In the instance of amputation, the minimal requirement for eligibility is total removal of the first ray of one foot:
- e) In the instance of a leg length discrepancy the minimal requirement for eligibility is a 6cm difference in leg length as measured from the greater trochanter to the ground in a standing x-ray.

In 2015 fifteen athletes approached us to enquire about their chances of being considered eligible under IWBF regulations. To date four players were presented. We are still waiting on the decision for all four.

### **U25 Women's World Championships, June 2015, Beijing, China**

I represented Canada as a member of the panel for this IWBF-sanctioned event. Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Great Britain and Japan were represented.

### **Parapan American Games, August 2015, Toronto, Canada**

Karen Ferguson represented Canada as a member on the panel of this IWBF sanctioned event. 8 men's teams and 8 women's teams competed for respectively 2 and 3 spots for the upcoming Paralympic Games in Rio 2016. Canada, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil were represented. The American Zone Congress was held during the games. I was elected head classifier for the America's Zone. It is a four year term.

## **GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON**

### **Provincial Involvement:**

It takes years to become a good classifier and practice is the key. With this in mind I would really like all provinces to enlist the help of their local classifiers as often as needed. This allows local athletes to be classified and allows local classifiers to obtain much needed experience.

The following is an updated list of active classifiers for each province. These people have worked hard to become certified classifiers and they are now looking at improving their skills. Please call on them as often as is feasible:

BC:	Tim Frick	timfrick@me.com
AB:	Lori Radke	radkel@telus.net
MB	Karen Gillespie	kurlydee@hotmail.com

ON:	Sandy Loewen Tami Milne Ranita Manocha Irene Van Eenoo	loewensandy@gmail.com tv758@gmail.com rmanoch@gmail.com jeff.vaneenoo@sympatico.ca
QC:	Anne Lachance	lachancea@aei.ca
NB:	Karen Ferguson	ferka@nb.sympatico.ca
NS:	Cher Smith Clary Stubbert	Cher.Smith@cdha.nshealth.ca clary.stubbert@psmobility.ca

### **Classification Clinics:**

I would like recommend WBC to hold either a classification clinic for new candidates (more classifiers are especially needed in the West and Quebec is also thin on classifiers) or a refresher clinic or both next season.

### **Seating Clinics:**

Our National and Academy athletes put tremendous amounts of work in becoming the best wheelchair basketball athletes in the world. Part of this work involves identifying the optimal seating installation for each individual. I have not been very available this past 2 years and have passed on this responsibility to Cher Smith, from Nova Scotia, a very capable wheelchair basketball classifier and Occupational Therapist specializing in seating.

### **Change of guards:**

It has been a pleasure leading classification for WBC since 2001. It is now time for me to step down. The new head of classification for Wheelchair Basketball Canada, beginning September 2015 at the AGM, will be Karen Ferguson. Karen has been my second in command for years. She knows what is involved in this job and has kindly accepted to step up to the plate. I am very confident she will be able to carry on as the new head classifier for Canada with great diligence and expertise. As former head classifier for Canada and as the new head classifier for the America's zone I will remain available to help her out as long and as often as she wants me to.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Lachance*

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Anne Lachance  
Retiring Director of Classification  
Wheelchair Basketball Canada  
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**ANNEX A**  
**WBC CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES**  
**REVISED FEBRUARY 2015**

**1. Procedures for the National Classification of New Players:**

- 1.1. The national classification of new players can take place at any event where WBC's Classification Director has approved a Tournament Player Classification Panel composed of a minimum of 3 certified classifiers.
- 1.2. Teams wishing to register new players must signify this on the team roster submitted to the local organizing committee. The form must contain the name, date of birth, gender and proposed classification for each new player.
- 1.3. Where there are scheduled team practices prior to the start of competition all players will meet the classification panel during this practice.
  - 1.3.1. All players will need to be present and wear their team jersey number.
  - 1.3.2. New players will complete a registration form, have their photo taken and propose a class they feel best fits their capacities on court
  - 1.3.3. At the end of the observation period the team will be informed of any change to their player's proposed classification, effective for the first game of the tournament.
  - 1.3.4. At the end of all observation practices, each team will receive an initial tournament classification roster effective for the first day of competition.
- 1.4. Where there are no scheduled team practices prior to the start of competition all players will meet the classification panel prior to warming up for their first game.
  - 1.4.1. New players will complete a registration form, have their photo taken and propose a class they feel best fits their capacities on court.
  - 1.4.2. At the end of the warm up period the team will be informed of any change to their player's proposed classification, effective for the start of the first game of the tournament.
- 1.5. Temporary cards will be issued with the information obtained in 1.3 or 1.4
- 1.6. Observation of the player's function will continue, as necessary, during the remainder of the preliminary rounds.
- 1.7. New players may have their classification confirmed or changed at the end of any preliminary game or at the end of the tournament.
- 1.8. If a player presents with a challenging situation, the classification panel may ask to meet the player for a functional assessment on the side court.
- 1.9. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided to the player and team coach.
- 1.10. At the end of the preliminary rounds each team will receive an official tournament roster. There will be no change in classification during the playoffs .
- 1.11. A permanent card documenting the player's official class will be issued at the end of the tournament. Players who have not played sufficiently for the classifiers to reach a decision will not be assigned an official classification.

*\* Players classified by IWBf will play with their IWBf classification unless they request a review of their classification with WBC. Requests for reviews of an international class will only be accepted if the player's function is significantly different from the function presented at the time of the international classification. For procedures on requesting a review of a player's classification with WBC please see 3.1.*

*\*\* Players initially classified while eligible for the mini division will be considered as new players every year until they turn 17 and are no longer eligible to compete in the mini division.*

## 2. Procedures For the Review of a Player's Classification:

### 2.1. Teams requesting a review of one of one of their own player's classification must:

- 2.1.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it to the Head of Tournament Classification panel at the latest during the coaches meeting, prior to the commencement of competition. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
- 2.1.2. Include a \$50 fee payable to WBC. This fee will be reimbursed should the request be successful. The fee is not applicable if a significant change in medical condition leads to the request.
- 2.1.3. Requests for reviews will be considered at the same time and using the same procedure as for new players:
  - 2.1.3.1. The player will be observed in observation practice where one is available or while warming up for his/her first game.
  - 2.1.3.2. The player will start the tournament with his/her previous classification.
  - 2.1.3.3. Observation of the player's function will continue, as necessary, during the remainder of the preliminary rounds.
  - 2.1.3.4. The player under review may have his/her classification confirmed or changed at the end of any preliminary round game or at the end of the tournament.
  - 2.1.3.5. If a player presents with a challenging situation the classification panel may ask to meet the player for a functional assessment on the side court.
  - 2.1.3.6. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the player and coach.
  - 2.1.3.7. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his/her new classification confirmed on his/her permanent classification card.

### 2.2. Teams requesting a review of another team's player's classification must:

- 2.2.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it at any time during the competition to the Head of Tournament Classification panel. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
- 2.2.2. Include a \$50 fee payable to WBC. This fee will be reimbursed should the request be successful.
- 2.2.3. The team of the player under review will be notified and provided with a copy of the application form submitted by the team submitting the request.
- 2.2.4. The player under review will be considered at the same time and using the same procedure as for new players: with the exception that his/her class may not be changed until the end of the tournament.
  - 2.2.4.1. The player will enter (or continue) the tournament with his/her previous classification.
  - 2.2.4.2. The player will be observed in his/her observation practice where one is available or while warming up for his/her first (next) game.
  - 2.2.4.3. Observation of the player's function will continue, as necessary, during the remainder of the preliminary rounds.
  - 2.2.4.4. The player under review may have his/her classification confirmed or changed at the end of any preliminary round game or at the end of the tournament.
  - 2.2.4.5. If a player presents with a challenging situation, the classification panel may ask to meet the player for a functional assessment on the side court.
  - 2.2.4.6. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the team of the player under review. Only the decision will be communicated to the team requesting the review as explanations referring to the decision may include confidential information.

- 2.2.4.7. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his/her new classification confirmed on his/her permanent classification card.
  - 2.2.5. If a player does not play a sufficient amount of time during the tournament for a decision to be made the fee is returned to the appealing team and the player's original classification stands.
- 2.3. Review of a decision made during a tournament can only be requested if there are six classifiers present, enough to form two independent panels. To request a review of a decision made during a tournament the team must:**
- 2.3.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it to the Head of the Classification Panel at any point during the tournament. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
  - 2.3.2. Include a \$50 fee payable to WBC. Should the request for review be successful the fee will be reimbursed.
  - 2.3.3. The player under review will initially continue the tournament with his/her recently awarded class.
  - 2.3.4. The player under review will be considered at the same time and using the same procedures as for new players with the exception that this observation will now be carried out by a neutral classification panel, one not involved with the initial decision.
  - 2.3.5. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the team of the player under review.
  - 2.3.6. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his/her new classification confirmed on his/her permanent classification card.
  - 2.3.7. If a player does not play a sufficient amount of time during the tournament for a decision to be made the fee is returned and the player's original classification stands.

### **3. Procedures for Adjusting a Player's Classification at the end of a tournament:**

- 3.1. If, during a tournament the player classification panel identifies that there is a significant alteration in any player's functional capacity they may re-evaluate the classification of the player.
- 3.2. If the panel is unanimous that the player's classification should change, the panel may take this action at the end of the tournament.