



CLASSIFICATION REPORT

2016 Annual General Meeting

CLASSIFICATION STATISTICS FOR 2016

CWBL Women's Finals, Longueuil, QC

Classification Panel: Anne Lachance, Québec, HC
Clary Stubbert, Nova Scotia
Ranita Manocha, Ontario

Number of teams: 5
Number of players in tournament: 50 (37 classifiable)
Number of players reviewed: 13

- New players: 16 (6 able-bodied; 10 classifiable)
- Mini players: 0
- Former Mini players: 0
- Formal Appeals: 1 (not granted)
- Classification adjustments at the end: 2

CWBL NATIONALS, Kamloops, BC

Classification Panel: Karen Ferguson, New Brunswick, HC
Tim Frick, British Columbia
Anne Lachance, Quebec

Number of teams: 10
Number of players in tournament: 93 (68 classifiable)
Number of players reviewed: 19

- New players: 10 (2 able-bodied; 8 classifiable)
- Mini Players: 3 (1 went up, 2 remained the same)
- Former Mini Player: 2 (no changes)
- Formal Appeals: 2 (2 granted)
- Classification adjustments at the end: 0

JUNIOR WEST FINALS, Saskatoon, SK

Classification Panel: Tami Turner, Ontario, HC
Sandy Loewen, Manitoba
Lori Radke, Alberta

Number of teams: 7
Number of players in tournament: 32 (14 classifiable)
Number of players reviewed: 8
• New players: 11 (6 able-bodied, 5 classifiable)
• Mini players: 0
• Former Mini players: 2 (no changes)
• Formal Appeals: 1 (not granted)
• Classification adjustments at the end: 0

JUNIOR EAST FINALS, Charlottetown, PEI

Classification Panel: Karen Ferguson, New Brunswick, HC
Lori Radke, Alberta
Clary Stubbert, Nova Scotia

Number of teams: 9
Number of players in tournament: 37 (22 classifiable)
Number of players reviewed: 15
• New players: 13 (5 able-bodied; 8 classifiable)
• Mini Players: 1 (no change)
• Former Mini Player: 1 (no change)
• Formal Appeals: 0
• Classification adjustments at the end: 0

CLASSIFIER DUTY IN 2016

8 classifiers were officially involved in classification this season:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ranita Manocha (ON) | Lori Radke (AB) |
| Tim Frick (BC) | Clary Stubbert (NS) |
| Karen Ferguson (NB) | Sandy Loewen (MB) |
| Anne Lachance (QC) | Tami Turner (ON) |

NEW PLAYERS IN 2016

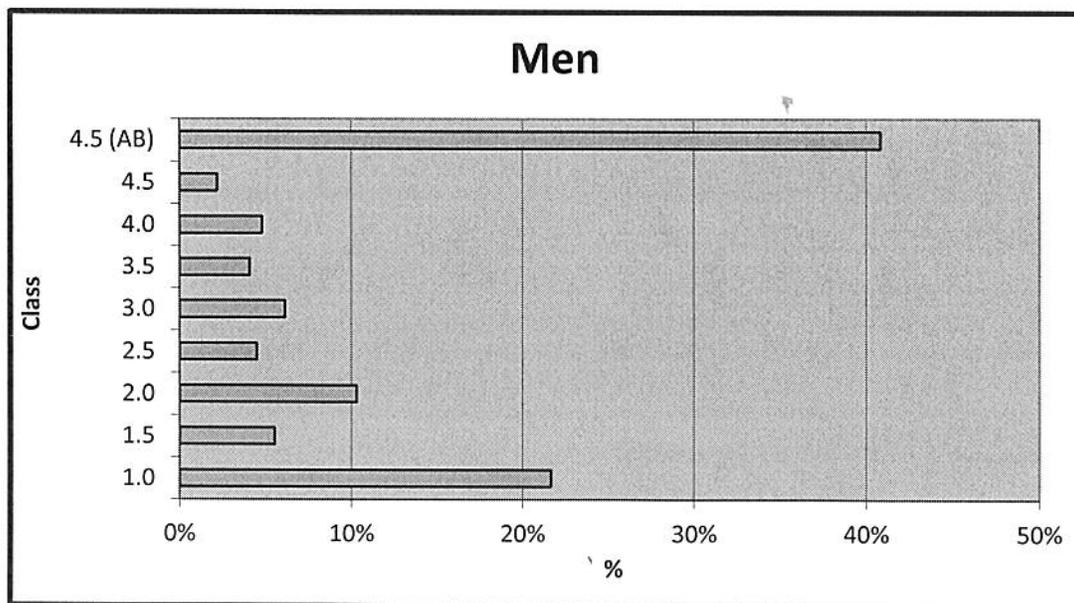
50 players were issued WBC National classification cards in 2016. Of those:

| Males | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | A-B |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mini Division | | | | | | | | | |
| Junior Division | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Open Division | 2 | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | | 2 |

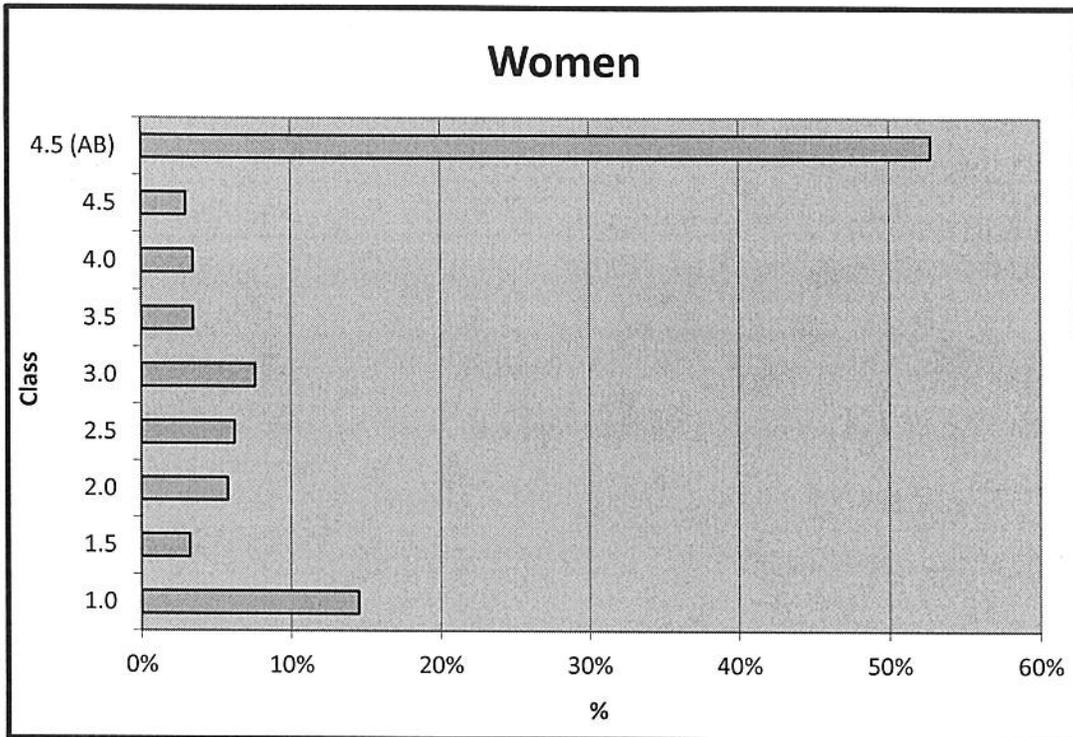
| Females | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | A-B |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mini Division | | | | | | | | | |
| Junior Division | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
| Open Division | 4 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 6 |

Quebec was the most active in presenting 12 new players to WBC-sanctioned events. Ontario and Alberta each had 8 new players. British Columbia and Saskatchewan each had 7, Nova Scotia had 4, Manitoba had 3 and New Brunswick had 1 new player.

There are now 960 male players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



There are 435 female players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



PROVINCIAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Provincial Classification Cards:

We continued to produce classification cards for players classified by local classifiers during local events. Classification information for local players was submitted by:

Maritimes-21 players

Quebec-18 players were seen at Defi Sportif, including players from Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia

It is helpful to have the photos and registration forms completed before athletes attend WBC sanctioned events and we hope that PSO's will continue to invite their classifiers at their local events.

DOMESTIC LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Sanctioned events:

This past season, 4 panels of classifiers were assembled to cover Junior West Finals, Junior East Finals, CWBL Nationals and CWBL Women's Finals. This was the first year that all mini players were reviewed, not just former mini players, as per the procedural change approved at last year's AGM. This resulted in more work at some tournaments but has been beneficial for the athletes as well as the classifiers.

Classification Clinics:

Initially at the beginning of the season, we had planned to hold 2 classification clinics for new classifiers, one in the East and one in the West. Unfortunately, there were not enough people to hold the clinic in the West. I taught a clinic in Toronto in May in conjunction with a Men's Invitational Tournament, the Toronto Challenge. Three people attended the clinic and received their national certification. I am pleased to introduce the following new classifiers:

- Makiko Harada, BC
- Mike Doucet, NB
- Talia Alenabi, ON

There are still several people interested in becoming classifiers and we hope to hold another classification clinic next year.

Seating Clinics:

No seating clinics were held in the past year. Recommendations were given to athletes when their classifications were provided at tournaments by the members of the classification panels.

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.

Changing of the Guard:

With Anne taking over as the Head Classifier for the America's Zone, I took over as the Head Classifier for WBC. This was an extremely challenging but rewarding year for me. I was always aware of how much work Anne put into the classification program in Canada but in reality, I really had no idea. The work involved in providing classification at the tournaments and all of the paperwork required prior to and after the events is enormous. I would like to thank Anne for all of her support this year. I couldn't have managed it without her.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Classification of Canadian Athletes at IWBF sanctioned events:

Four players were presented for classification at the Toronto Challenge: Colin Higgins' class 4.5 was confirmed, Garrett Ostepchuk was classified as a class 1.5, Blaise Mutware's class 3.5 was confirmed and Ben Moronchuck was confirmed as a class 4.5.

One official reclassification request was submitted for Cindy Ouellet by the coaching staff for consideration in Rio. This request was denied.

IWBF Eligibility Applications (formally referred to as Minimal Disability):

Here is some general info: 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 the past year 3 requests for Eligibility were submitted, two were approved and one is still pending. Two submitted last year were approved and one requires additional information. Another request is being actively prepared.

South American Championships, June 26-July 3, 2016, Cali, Colombia:

Anne Lachance represented Canada at this IWBF-sanctioned event. She was the head classifier and also taught a clinic for Zonal and National Classifiers. Teams represented for the men were Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru. The women's teams present played the 3 on 3 format and included Colombia, Argentina and Chile.

Invitational Tournament in Blankenge, Belgium , March 25-27, 2016:

Anne Lachance was invited to attend this event however it was cancelled following the terrorist attack in Belgium.

Continental Clash, July 1-5, 2016, Leicester, England:

I represented Canada at this event which included men's teams from Canada, USA, Japan, Great Britain, Australia and the Netherlands.

NWBA:

Anne Lachance and I were both invited again this year to the NWBA Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky in April to assist with the classification of American athletes. The USA recently switched to the IWBF system of classification and are in the process of classifying every athlete in the United States. Anne taught a course for new national level classifiers at this event. I was unable to attend this year due to a previous commitment.

America's Zone:

Anne Lachance was elected to a 4 year team as the Head Classifier for the America's Zone at ParaPanAmerican Games in 2015. Anne has been working hard to improve the classification system within the America's Zone and is working on a potential Refresher Clinic for the classifiers in the Zone at the America's Cup next year.

IWBF Europe Classification Clinic:

Both Anne and I will be attending a clinic for IWBF International Classifiers in Belgium in November. The event is being hosted by the IWBF Europe Classifiers. Anne and I will both be presenting various topics at this event.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

Classification Component for Coaching Certification:

I would like to recommend that a component on classification be added to the coaching certification system. I have spoken with Tim Frick about this and he has indicated that it will be considered during the next review. I am investigating the modules used by the US to see if they could be used as a professional development module for coaches in Canada.

Provincial Involvement:

It takes years to become a good classifier and practice is essential. Therefore it is recommended that the provinces involve 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 always looking to improve their skills.

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------------|
| BC: | Tim Frick | timfrick@me.com |
| | Makiko Harada | makiko@bcwbs.ca |
| AB: | Lori Radke | radkel@telus.net |
| MB | Karen Gillespie | kurlydee@hotmail.com |
| | Sandy Loewen | loewensandy@gmail.com |
| ON: | Tami Milne | tv1758@gmail.com |
| | Ranita Manocha | rmanoch@gmail.com |
| | Irene Van Eenoo | jeff.vaneenoo@sympatico.ca |
| | Talia Alenabi | talia_alenabi@yahoo.com |
| QC: | Anne Lachance | lachancea@aei.ca |
| NB: | Karen Ferguson | ferka@nb.sympatico.ca |
| | Mike Doucet | michael.doucet@xerox.com |
| NS: | Cher Smith | Cher.Smith@cdha.nshealth.ca |
| | Clary Stubbart | clary.stubbart@psmobility.ca |

Classification Clinics:

I recommend that WBC hold either one or two classification clinics for new candidates next season. It would also be beneficial to have a refresher clinic for the existing classifiers.

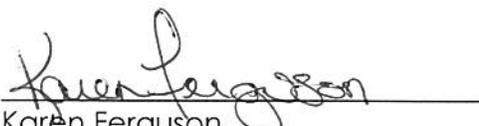
Seating Clinics:

I recommend that the National Team and Academy athletes, as well as other interested athletes, continue have their optimal seating installation assessed by the classifiers trained in this special area. I would recommend that Anne Lachance provide a clinic for specific classifiers to ensure that there are classifiers available as required. It may be possible to coordinate this with a WBC tournament this year.

Summary:

It has been my pleasure to take over the role of Head Classifier for WBC. While it has been challenging at times, I have learned a tremendous amount this year. I would like to thank Wendy, Ryan, Paul and everyone at WBC for their ongoing support and patience over the past year. I would also like to thank Anne again for her support and mentorship.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Ferguson
Head Classifier
Wheelchair Basketball Canada
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