

USAOCR Para Categories

Review/Revised Date: September 4, 2024

- PO1: Para athletes in this class use a wheelchair and are able to self-propel in areas of flat or even terrain. This class includes athletes with, but not limited to impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency such as unilateral or double leg amputation, spinal cord injuries resulting in paraplegia or tetraplegia.
- PO2-1: Athletes in this sport class have a significant limitation within the obstacle elements
 of racing. They have a severe degree of activity limitation such as, but not limited to:
 complete loss of range of motion, power or proprioception in one arm, through-the-shoulder
 amputation, severe cerebral palsy or a severe neurological impairment affecting mostly the
 upper body. Athletes in this group are unable to use their upper limb to grip under the armpit.
- PO2-2: Athletes in this sport class have a significant limitation with the running elements of racing. They have a severe degree of activity limitation such as; complete loss of motion, power or proprioception in one leg, short stature or a severe neurological impairment affecting mostly the lower body. Athletes in this class may choose to use mobility devices to race such as walking stick(s) or crutches.
- PO3: This sport class includes athletes with a moderate degree of activity limitation in their lower limb(s) such as athletes with, but not limited to; lower limb amputation, moderate neurological impairments affecting the lower body or a loss of range of motion or power in the ankle or knee joint.
- PO4: This sport class includes athletes with a moderate degree of activity limitation in their upper limb(s) such as athletes with, but not limited to; upper limb amputation where the athlete is able to grip under the armpit, moderate neurological impairments affecting the upper body or a loss of range of motion or power in the wrist or elbow joint.
- PO5: Athletes in this sport class have a visual impairment and therefore run with a guide whilst wearing a blindfold.
- PO6a*: Athletes in this class are permitted support guides to navigate the challenges athletes
 encounter, which can impact their mobility. Competing in this class involves engaging with
 athletes from the other para classes (PO1-PO4). Guides must complete obstacles in addition
 to the Athlete. It is highly recommended that guides are either past or present OCR athletes.
 - o PO6a-1: Para-athletes using a wheelchair, self-propelled or non-self-propelled, will have a maximum of four (4) guides. In the case of mountain or heavy terrain event, six (6) guides can be permitted.
 - o PO6a-2: All other para-athletes in categories PO2-PO4 will have a maximum of two (2) guides.
- PO6b*: Athletes in this class are permitted support guides to navigate the challenges athletes encounter, which can impact their mobility. Competing in this class involves engaging with athletes from the other para classes (PO1-PO4). Guides are not required to complete obstacles. It is highly recommended that guides are either past or present OCR athletes.
 - o PO6b-1: Para-athletes using a wheelchair, self-propelled or non-self-propelled, will have a maximum of four (4) guides. In the case of mountain or heavy terrain event, six (6) guides can be permitted.

*: PO6a and PO6b are only applicable to USAOCR sanctioned races. PO6a and PO6b are not recognized at FISO World Obstacle level.

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- o PO6b-2: All other para-athletes in categories PO2-PO4 will have a maximum of two (2) guides.
- Condensed Para Obstacle Classes: In events with a limited number of Para athletes, three
 sport classes may be used. PO1, PO2-4 and PO5. These classes represent non-ambulatory,
 ambulatory and vision impaired athletes respectively with no distinction between PO2, PO3
 and PO4. Alternatively, event organizers may wish to combine both PO2-1 and PO2-2
 classes.