

OS DESAFIOS DA CLASSIFICAÇÃO DESPORTIVA CHALLENGES IN PARASPORT CLASSIFICATION

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Resumo

Classification is a defining feature of parasport and it is defined as grouping athletes into sport classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline (International Paralympic Committee, 2015). This process aims to: i) to specify the eligible impairments in order to compete in every parasport (i.e. eight physical, one visual and one intellectual), ii) to set processes and procedures for assessing whether an athlete has an eligible impairment, iii) to set a minimum impairment criteria for each eligible impairment, and iv) to allocate the athletes be in sport classes based on the extent to which athletes are able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the parasport or discipline. But it is important to note that the competitive structure provided by classification systems is not only important for high-level sport but also is essential for promoting grassroots participation in parasports by people with disabilities. This presentation will face several challenges that current research in parasport classification is managing to develop sport-specific and evidence-based classification systems:

The role of medicine and health professionals to identify para-athletes with eligible impairments (Tweedy, Connick, & Beckman, 2018)

The challenges for stablishing the associations between objective measurements of the eligible impairment and the activity limitations when performing the required sports skills (Tweedy, Mann, & Vanlandewijck, 2016)

The growing notion that the relationships between impairment and activity limitation is impairment-specific, and does not possible grouping para-athletes with a similar health condition (e.g. cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury) but with different impairments (i.e. ataxia, athetosis or hypertonia) (Reina, Iturricastillo, Castillo, Urbán, & Yanci, 2019)

The role of the International/National Sports Federations and the National Paralympic Committees to offer classification opportunities and adapting to the upcoming changes on classification methods and/or sports classes.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE:

Paralympics, disability, impairment