



New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby Classifications

After receiving feedback from previous seasons and having discussions with regional representatives we have moved to simplify the classification system within NZ.

Previously we have the following dispensations in place:

- Female (F):** All female athletes play 0.5 less than their official classification
- Over 45 (Ov45):** This allows all players 45 years of age or over to play 0.5 below their classification.
- Rookie (R):** This allows players competing in their first year to compete 0.5 below their classification.
- Social (S):** This covers able bodied athletes, Paraplegic athletes and more recently was given to athletes who applied to play as a lower class.

Moving forward we are aligning with international rules and simplifying the current dispensations to include the following:

- Female:** Females will now play as their official classification. However, the teams total points will be increased by 0.5 for each female athlete on the court at any given time. i.e. A team with one female on court will be permitted a total of 8.5 points, a team with two females will be allowed a total of 9.0 points.

This will align NZWR with international rules for female classifications.

- Social (S):** This will be a classification that can be applied for, and will last for the duration of one season of wheelchair rugby (*there is no guarantee that if a social grading is awarded one year, that it will be re-awarded the following year*). The aim of this grading is to encourage more athletes to continue playing wheelchair rugby, in doing so it should assist newer athletes and smaller regions to field competitive teams.



Each application will be reviewed by a panel of three representatives and can be changed at any stage through the season if it appears the social classification has been misused or the athlete's ability improves.

Please refer to the attached document for eligibility for a **Social** grading.

All able bodied and paraplegic classifications will remain as they currently are:

Able bodied players in their first year will play as 4.0, after this year they will play as 4.5.

Paraplegic players in their first year will play as 3.5, after this they will play as 4.0.

***Note: No Social (S) classifications will be recognised for athletes wanting to compete at either the New Zealand Low Point Nationals, or the New Zealand Nationals.**

The following dispensations will no longer be recognised:

Over45 (Ov45): Anyone currently in this class who feels they have reduced function or mobility is encouraged to contact the NZWR head classifier to request a formal classification; alternatively a **social (S)** grading may be applied for.

Rookie (R): Anyone competing in their first year is encouraged to seek a **social (S)** grading after they have received an official classification.

If anyone has any queries regarding this, please contact Mike Todd or Adam Wakeford.

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