



# Classification Newsletter

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## Edition 8 - October 2016

Welcome to the eighth edition of the British Paralympic Association's (BPA's) Classification Newsletter.

The newsletter provides an update each quarter on key classification activities that are taking place in the UK, along with important international developments.

The next edition of the BPA's Classification Newsletter will be issued in January 2017.

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## UK Paralympic Performance Conference - March 2017

Next year's UK Paralympic Performance Conference, held on 29-30 March 2017 at St George's Park, Burton Upon Trent, will feature two sessions on classification.

A keynote on the first day will look back on classification during the Rio cycle, which saw the BPA appoint its first ever full-time Classification Manager. Accusations of intentional misrepresentation were front page news days before the Rio Paralympic Games opened and this keynote will look at the facts and the fiction of that hot topic.

The second day will include a workshop that will allow delegates to contribute towards the development of the UK's first National Classification Code.

The UK Paralympic Performance Conference is supported by UK Sport and is aimed at members of staff from Great Britain's National Governing Bodies of Sport who are allocated a number of subsidised places. Places at full cost are also available.

For more information on the conference please email: [conference2017@paralympics.org.uk](mailto:conference2017@paralympics.org.uk).



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## BPA Chief Executive defiant over intentional misrepresentation claims

Claims of intentional misrepresentation by British athletes were robustly defended prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games by BPA Chief Executive Tim Hollingsworth.

Responding to allegations reported in articles in The Guardian and The Sunday Times, Tim said, "I dispute the view that there is anything along those lines going on."

"If any athlete was found to be intentionally misrepresenting their disability we would come down on that absolutely and see that as being unacceptable and against both the regulations and the spirit of Paralympic sport."

The full article can be read by clicking [here](#).



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## British Swimming recruits more classifiers

Following their success at the Paralympic Games in Rio, British Para-Swimming launched a recruitment drive for classifiers to be part of the journey in the lead up to Tokyo 2020.

Classifiers for swimmers with an intellectual impairment are in particular demand. If you are a qualified HCPC Registered Psychologist with an interest in competitive swimming then you could become a classifier for intellectually impaired swimmers. The job description can be viewed [here](#).

Anyone interested in becoming a classifier for British Swimming should email mail their current Curriculum Vitae to: [classification@swimming.org](mailto:classification@swimming.org).



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## British Cycling recruits more classifiers

To build on their success in Rio, British Cycling are looking for individuals with a background in either Medicine or Physiotherapy to attend national classifier training at the



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National Cycling Centre, Manchester, in January 2017. Individuals with qualifications in Sports Science and/or Cycling Coaching are also encouraged to come forward.

In particular, British Cycling are looking to recruit medical professionals based in Wales and Scotland.

For further information and to be considered for this opportunity, please read, complete and return the attached Expression of Interest Form to British Cycling, which can be downloaded [here](#).

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## VI Classifier Training

In August, BPA held training to allow ophthalmologists and optometrists to become national classifiers for athletes with a visual impairment.

Six trainees attended the course, which was supported by UK Sport and was led by Peter Derksen, an international classifier from The Netherlands. Joy Myint and Claire Morton, both British international classifiers, supported on the day alongside Chris Hogg from Moorfield Eye Hospital and the BPA's Classification Manager Iain Gowans.



The trainees have been invited to attend the BPA's Classification Clinics for visually impaired athletes, which all relevant national governing bodies can access.

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## Content for future issues

The next edition of the BPA's Classification Newsletter will be issued by 31 January 2017.

If you have content you would like to be included please email the BPA's Classification Manager, [Iain Gowans](#).

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60 Charlotte Street,  
London W1T 2NU  
Tel: [+44 \(0\)20 7842 5789](tel:+442078425789)  
Fax: [+44 \(0\)20 7842 5777](tel:+442078425777)  
Email: [info@paralympics.org.uk](mailto:info@paralympics.org.uk)

Web: [www.paralympics.org.uk](http://www.paralympics.org.uk)

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