

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ISSUES RELATED to the WR4GD PASS

- the Minimum level of impairment (ver1.7)

Instructions for Eligibility Assessors

In order to participate in any EDGA badged tournaments, players must be assessed by an EDGA approved Eligibility Assessor and able to demonstrate that their disability qualifies. There are two types of passes available which depend on the nature and severity of the players impairment:

- **A WR4GD Pass** demonstrates a *Minimum Level of Impairment* (as set out below) in the 10 eligible impairments listed by the IPC.
 - It allows players to participate in any EDGA badged tournaments including the Premier Series with all results included in the WR4GD World Rankings.
 - The Standard is set out in this document.
- **ACCESS Pass**
 - **The EDGA Access Pass** is for players with a disability described in the 10 qualifying categories but not severe enough to qualify for the WR4GD pass. Players with this Pass are able to play in most EDGA Events but are not able to accumulate World Ranking Points. The results are not included in the WR4GD World Rankings.
 - **EDGA Conditional Pass** is for players who have a condition which is accepted as a disability in the country in which they live and play golf in but is not one of the qualifying categories.

The Ten Categories

	IMPAIRMENT	EXPLANATION
A	IMPAIRED MUSCLE POWER	Reduced force generated by muscle or muscle groups, may occur in one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused by example, by spinal cord injuries, Spina Bifida or Poliomyelitis.
B	IMPAIRED PASSIVE RANGE OF MOVEMENT	Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently. Joints that can move beyond the average range of motion, joint instability and acute conditions such as arthritis are not considered eligible impairments.
C	LIMB DEFICIENCY	Total or partial absence of bones or joints, from birth or as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident or amputation, illness (e.g. bone cancer).
D	LEG/ARM LENGTH DIFFERENCE	Bone shortening in one leg/arm from birth or trauma etc.
E	SHORT STATURE	Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk.
F	HYPERTONIA	Abnormal increase in muscle tension – reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, which can result in injury, illness or a health condition such as cerebral palsy.
G	ATAXIA	Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
H	ATHETOSIS	Generally characterized by unbalanced, uncontrolled, movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture – due to cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis or other conditions.
I	VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerve/pathways or part of the brain controlling vision (visual cortex).
J	INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT and NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS	Limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills, which originates before the age of 22.

Qualifying factors for participation are the types and the magnitudes of impairment with regard to leg range of motion and strength, grip, arm length, two hands, shoulder range of motion and strength, elbow range of motion and strength, back range of motion, vision, balance and neurology. Major impairment in any of these functions, or in combinations, will qualify for participation.

- Range of motion is measured from the anatomical position.
- Strength is measured in a scale from 0-5 (see below).

If a player, previously approved, for any reason has a changed impairment, this change must be reported to the authority giving the license immediately.

It is only necessary to fill in information relevant to the disability relating to the application for a WR4GD Pass but those found eligible, *additional classification information* will be required.

TESTING METHODS TO BE USED

Muscle Testing (Power scale)

Daniels-Worthingham

- 0 Total lack of voluntary contraction.
- 1 Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker).
- 2 Contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated.
- 3 Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity
- 4 Contraction with full range of movement against gravity and some resistance.
- 5 Contraction of normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance.

Spasticity Grade Scale for Muscle Tone (Spasticity/stiffness)

Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale

- 0 No catch on rapid passive movement (RPM).
- 1 Catch occurs on the RPM followed by release; there is no resistance to RPM throughout the remaining range.
- 2 Catch occurs in the second half of the available range (after the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.
- 3 Catch occurs in the first half of the available range (up to and including the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.
- 4 When attempting RPM, the body part appears fixed but moves on slow passive movement.

Neurological Co-ordination tests / Ataxia

- **Finger to nose test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch his own nose with his index finger from the crucifix position with the eyes closed.
- **Finger to finger test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch both index fingers from the crucifix position with the eyes closed.
- **Finger to toe test:** The Classifier demonstrates and asks the player to touch his own toe with the index finger with the eyes closed.
- **Heel draw test:** Draw the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral leg, from ankle to knee and then in the reverse direction.
- **Romberg test:** Stand with feet together and both arms in a horizontal position in extension. When the player closes the eyes and is not able to stand still the Romberg sign is positive.
- **Tandem Romberg:** Straight line heel to toe walking.

Other notes for Examiners

1. All measurements are made from neutral joint position 0°
2. Any queries please contact to our **office telephone:**



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THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Applicants will have made an online application and may have supplied information which will be available in their online record.

95% of decisions will be relative straightforward- but 5% may be difficult and so you should make “for review” and consult the Head Eligibility Assessor before making a decision.

Eligibility assessments are made in 5 sections- not all will be needed but make up a complete assessment in a more difficult case:

1. Assessment in the examination room
2. Walking on site
3. Movement on the practice area
4. Movement on the golf course
5. Movement in Competition

DISABILITIES QUALIFYING FOR A WR4GD PASS

1/ Amputees of lower limbs and leg length

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

An amputation at Syme level (through ankle) or above on at least one side will qualify.

2/ Amputees of upper limbs and arm length

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

An amputation of any part of the upper limb leading to a complete lack of grip on either side, or where a grip cannot be maintained will qualify.

NB If there is doubt, this can be tested at their first ACCESS Event

3/ Joint and muscular disorders

HIP:

Normal Range:

- Flexion = 130 °
- Extension = 20 °

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- a complete stiff hip joint with no movement in any direction will qualify
- a flexion contracture of 35° on either side will qualify.

Strength of abduction, extension or flexion below Grade 3 will qualify.

At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity can be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

KNEE:

Normal Range:

- Flexion = 135°
- Extension = 0°

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

A completely stiff knee in extension with no movement in any direction or a flexion contracture of 30° or more on either side will qualify – OR -

Strength reduction of flexion or extension below Grade 3 will be eligible. At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity can be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

ANKLE:

Normal Range:

- Dorsiflexion = 20°
- Plantar flexion = 40°

If the only impairment is a stiff ankle, the player is not eligible for a WR4GD pass.

GRIP:

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Complete lack of grip on one side due to joint stiffness or lack of muscle power and function and/or inability to maintain the grip will be eligible.

NB This category can be difficult. If in doubt, consider videoing the player and discuss with the Head Classifier

WRIST:

Normal Range:

- Extension = 60°
- Flexion = 75°
- Total radio-ulnar deviation = 70°

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Extension on the trailing wrist of less than 10°, together with less than 5° of radio-ulnar deviation will qualify.

AND/OR

Strength below Grade 3 of extension or radio-ulnar deviation on the trailing side will be eligible.

SHOULDER:*Normal Range:*

- Flexion = 150°
- Extension = 50°
- External rotation = 60°
- Internal rotation = 95°
- Abduction = 180°
- Adduction = 60°

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Range of motion in either shoulder:

- less than 30° adduction or abduction will qualify
- less than 20° flexion will qualify
- less than 45° rotation will qualify

Impaired shoulder extension does not qualify.

Strength below Grade 3 of abduction, adduction, external rotation and flexion, will be eligible.

At Grade 3, the weight of the extremity against gravity can be overcome through full range of available motion and is therefore not eligible.

ELBOW:*Normal Range:*

- Full flexion = 150°
- Full extension = 0°
- Full pronation = 90°
- Full supination = 90°

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- Contracture /deformity
- Flexion contracture/deformity of more than 45° on one side.
- Pronation and supination less than 45° on either side.

Player who:

- cannot flex the trailing elbow beyond 90° will be eligible
- cannot flex the leading elbow beyond 60° will be eligible or
- has less than 30° of pronation or supination on either side will be eligible

Strength below Grade 3 of flexion, extension, pronation or supination on either side will be eligible.

BACK AND NECK RANGE OF MOTION:

Rotation of the back and neck is fundamental in a golf swing whereas other trunk movements are of less importance. Measurement should be taken with the pelvis fixed in a sitting position. The shoulder girdle is manually fixed, or tested in a chair which fixes the trunk, to test cervical rotation. A spatula or similar object held between the player's teeth indicates 0° at the starting position and used to estimate the range of motion during rotation.

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Thoracolumbar rotation of less than 10° to the Right OR Left, or cervical spine rotation less than 20° will be eligible. Often a close examination with video will show compensatory movements in the pelvis and/or shoulders to compensate and allow "rotation" to occur.

Other impairments such as reduced flexion/extension, and side flexion movements do not qualify.

LEG LENGTH/ARM LENGTH DIFFERENCE

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- Leg length difference should be at least 20 cm to qualify.
- Arm length difference should be at least 15 cm to qualify.

*The leg length has to be measured between the greater trochanter and the medial malleolus.

*The arm length should be measured supine, with the shoulder at 90° flexion/abduction from the acromion to the tip of the longest finger.

SHORT STATURE

Players under 18 years

- Players below the age of 18 may now apply for Eligibility Assessment
- Players will be required to undertake annual review of their eligibility until aged 18.

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- Players will need to submit supporting medical evidence of a short stature diagnosis from an appropriate medical specialist which should include growth chart information preferably using charts based upon the player's local population.
- The medical information provided should state:
 1. Diagnosis of short stature.AND
 2. Growth Chart information: provide evidence that the individual's height is 2 or more standard deviations below the mean for the age and gender specific to the local population.
 3. Additional information should include where possible:
 - Growth Velocity information: provide evidence that the individual's growthvelocity that is below the 5th percentile for age and gender within the local population.
 - Mid-Parental Centile information: provide evidence that the individual's height centile is more than 2 standard deviations below the mid-parentalheight.

Players over 18 years

- The standing height should be measured in cm
- The arm length should be measured in supine, with the shoulder at 90° flexion/abduction from the acromion to the tip of the longest finger.
- If an arm contracture is present the measurement technique will be the same.

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

- Males 145 cm or less AND arm length less than 66 cm AND the sum of the standing height and longest arm length must be 200 cm or less
- Females 137 cm or less AND arm length less than 63 cm AND the sum of the standing height and longest arm length must be 190 cm or less

4/ NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Neurological disorders include impairments such as spasticity, tested according to the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale, athetosis or other impairments that cause severe difficulties to perform a golf swing.

a/ Hypertonia

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Monoplegia– Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the upper limb will qualify

Hemiplegia – Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the upper limb and marked movement and balance problems in the lower limb on affected side will qualify.

Diplegia - Spasticity Grade 2 or more in the lower limbs but able to stand and swing and walk will qualify.

*In cases of doubt the player has to be observed by the Classifier during training or competition.

b/ Athetosis

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Athetosis must be clearly evident during classification. Clearly evident athetosis is an unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable in one of the following tests:

- Involuntary movements of the fingers/toes or upper/lower extremities, despite the person trying to remain still.
- Inability to hold the body still, swaying of the body.

In cases of doubt the player has to be observed by the Classifier during training or competition.

c/ Ataxia

Ataxia is a neurological sign and symptom that consists of a lack of co-ordination of muscle movements. When the condition occurs in children under the age of two (2), the term cerebral palsy is often used, but it also can be due to brain injury (e.g. stroke, trauma) or multiple sclerosis

Eligibility criteria for WR4GD Pass

Ataxic movement must be demonstrable and clearly evident during the assessment.

Clearly evident ataxia should be observable during at least one of the following tests:

- Finger to Nose test
- Finger to Finger test
- Finger to toe test
- Heel draw test
- Tandem Romberg
- Walking
- Romberg test

5/ CARDIOPULMONARY DISORDERS & NORMAL AGEING, HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

Not eligible

6/ IMPAIRED VISION

Players with visual impairments (VI) can now submit WR4GD/ACCESS applications with supporting evidence of their vision acuity or copy of their International Blind Golf Association (IBGA) membership which will include the relevant vision acuity test:

- B1, B2 and B3 - supported by relevant acuity test - will qualify for WR4GD status
- B4 - supported by relevant acuity test - will qualify for ACCESS status

EDGA is reviewing further eligibility criteria to incorporate vision fields into eligibility eg utilising the LogMar system. This will be updated once the correct guidance from the relevant governing bodies has been confirmed.

EDGA has appointed an optometrist to review any applications which are not currently within the approved criteria outlined above.

7/ INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT AND NEURO-DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Assessment for these conditions will be undertaken by VIRTUS on behalf of EDGA. An applicants will be asked to apply for an assessment in their countries to the VIRTUS representative organisation. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 22 years of age. To be eligible, a player will need to receive any of the 3 International standards- ii1, ii2 or ii3 and appear on the International Master List on the VIRTUS Website.

The current categories presently accepted are:

- II1 -Significant impairment in intellectual functioning. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below, that is, a Full-Scale score of 75 or lower.
- II2 -Formal diagnosis of Trisomy 21 or Translocation Downs or other complex disorders combining intellectual and some physical impairment. Athletes with Mosaic Downs can only apply for II1.
- II3 -Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autistic Spectrum Disorder diagnosis using accepted diagnostic techniques and a Full Scale Score of IQ of 76 or above . (Currently under review)

For the Paralympics, only II1 players will be eligible

More information is available on the [Virtus website](#) and on this [information sheet](#).

NB. Players not eligible for a WR4GD Pass but who have a disability in this category recognized by their country will be eligible for an Access Pass (eg PTSD or Hyperactive Disorder)

8/ CUMULATIVE DISORDERS

At the present time multiple conditions which individually do not reach the minimum level of impairment for a WR4GD Pass cannot be added together to become “eligible”. We assess the worst impairment, and this must fit in our minimal impairment criteria.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1/ Changed impairment and Fluctuating Conditions

If a player, previously approved, for any reason has a changing impairment, it must be reported to the authority conferring the Pass immediately. A new assessment will be arranged. The penalty for violation of this rule is described the Regulations.

Players with fluctuating conditions such as MS and Rheumatoid Arthritis will require annual reviews. It is up to the player to make sure this is arranged before the due date.

2/ Wheelchair use

A player using a wheelchair or a Para-golfer or similar device is likely to use a wheelchair for the majority of their daily life. A number for rules applies to use of these devices:

- A player using a wheelchair must use it for the whole of the event i.e. they cannot stand up to play shots and use the wheelchair only for transportation

- Players using a Para-golfer or similar devices will required to plant their fee on the footplate and not on the ground

3/ Golf club aids

The provided aids, support and assistance have to be in accordance with the Modification of the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities as published by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

4/ Use of buggy

The general intention is that buggies are only allowed in tournaments for those who have an urgent or absolute need related to the impairment that makes them eligible. Players who are eligible due to disorders of the lower extremities neurological or balance problems should have a buggy.

If it can be considered that a medical condition can be worsened by walking or for safety reasons a buggy should be provided.

Golfers with only upper extremity impairments are not allowed to use a buggy.

In case of doubt, the Chief Classifier of the tournament will make a final decision.

On some courses/venues buggies may be mandatory – players will be expected to comply and use them.

5/ Classification Code of Conduct / Code of Ethics

The code is included in these Definitions of Impairments, being the same as those used by all Paralympic sports organisations and can be found in the IPC handbook

6/Decisions

A **International Eligibility Assessor** within the Central Eligibility Team will monitor approvals and make sure there is a common interpretation of the WR4GD Standard.

Each country will appoint **National Eligibility Assessors** who will organise Eligibility within that country and will present decisions using the online system to the Central Eligibility Team. They will also be the conduit of information and ideas on eligibility issues between the **Central Eligibility Team** and the **National Federation** and the **IGF**

All the reports for evaluation should be written in English.

7/ Duration of license

The WR4GD Pass is valid for the period stated on the Pass unless:

- The eligibility criteria are revised
- There are changes in the participant's disability.

Revisions to the criteria can be made at any time and a player may occasionally be asked to attend a review by the Head Eligibility Assessor.