

CPISRA Classification System

(Very Quick Guide)

Class 1 power wheelchair user

unable to functionally propel a wheelchair

poor functional strength and range of movement in all extremities and trunk

Class 2

- poor functional strength in all extremities but able to propel a wheelchair
- severe athetoid
- rhythmical cycle is evident in swimming

Class 3

- wheelchair user in most instances
- quadriplegic (tetraplegic) severe hemiplegic
- able to propel a wheelchair independently
- able to walk short distances with assistive devices or assistance
- fair trunk control
- limiting spasticity in shoulders, arms and fingers

Class 4

- wheelchair is usually the athlete's choice for sport
- moderate to severe involvement in both legs
- upper limbs show normal functional strength and there is minimal limitation in range of movement
- symmetrical arms with leg drag

Class 5

- ambulant athlete often able to run
- diplegic, moderate involvement
- symmetrical shoulder girdle function and unimpaired trunk rotation

Class 6

- ambulant athlete without assistive devices
- athetosis in the most prevalent factor
- all four limbs show functional involvement
- class 6 athletes have more control problems

Class 7

- ambulant athlete without assistive devices
- the class for the hemiplegic athlete – arm and leg on the same side
- good functional control on the dominant side
- noticeable asymmetry of stroke function

Class 8

- ambulant athlete with minimal involvement
- must have obvious impairment
- minimal diplegic, minimal hemiplegic, minimal athetoid / ataxic athlete, monoplegic

TERMINOLOGY

Quadriplegia

(Tetraplegia) Total body involvement i.e. head, neck, trunk and all four limbs

Triplegia

Primarily three limbs involved. Sometimes referred to as asymmetric quadriplegia.

Diplegia

More involvement in lower limbs than upper limbs. May be asymmetric.

Hemiplegia

Involvement in upper and lower limb and trunk on same side.

Monoplegia

Involvement only in one limb.

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