

## Para-Shooting

Para-Shooting is the sport of shooting for Para-Athletes who have a physical impairment leading to reduced function in the lower and/or upper limbs.

### Classification

In Para-Sport classification provides the structure for fair and equitable competition to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus – the same factors that account for success in sport for able-bodied athletes.

The Para-Sport classification assessment process identifies the eligibility of each Para-Athlete's impairment and groups them into a sport class according to the degree of activity limitation resulting from their impairment.

Classification is sport-specific as an eligible impairment affects a Para-Athlete's ability to perform in different sports to a different extent. Each Para-Sport has a different classification system.

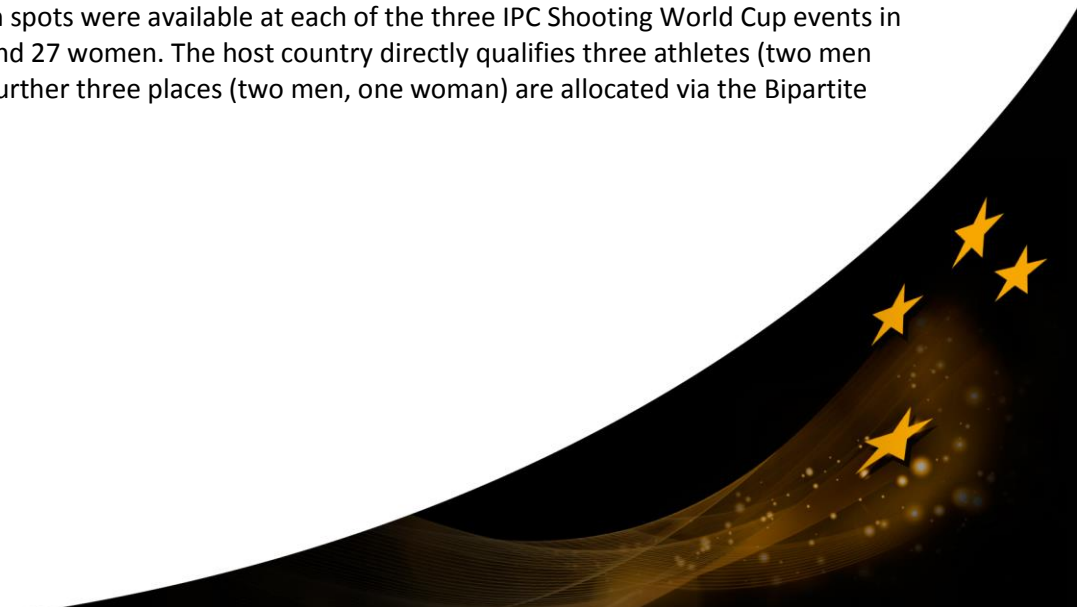
More information on classification and sport classes is available under 'Classification detail' below.

### Qualification – the road to Rio

The first phase of qualification took place via the 2014 IPC Shooting World Championships in Suhl, Germany. Here automatic qualification slots were available for the first four ranked Para-Athletes in the SH1 men's rifle events and the first two ranked athletes in the SH1 women's events. In the SH1 mixed events it was the top four ranked men and the top two ranked women (and in the SH2 mixed events the first six men and first three women) who earned qualification slots.

In the men's medal pistol event it was the first six ranked and in the women's medal pistol event the first three ranked who earned qualifications slots. In the mixed medal events the top four men and the top two women earned a qualification place.

A further 27 qualification spots were available at each of the three IPC Shooting World Cup events in 2015, totalling 54 men and 27 women. The host country directly qualifies three athletes (two men and one woman) and a further three places (two men, one woman) are allocated via the Bipartite Commission Invitation.



Note that all qualification spots are available to the NPC and not the individual athlete. Each NPC is given a maximum of 12 qualification slots with a maximum of eight for any gender.

New Zealand has so far earned three qualification spots (as at 1 December 2015). This includes two places in the mixed 10m air rifle prone SH2 event and one in the mixed 10m air rifle prone SH1 event.

The New Zealand team selection announcement is likely to be made in June 2016.

*“The 2015 IPC Shooting World Cup events have seen great results for New Zealand Para-Shooters to date. We set ourselves some ambitious goals and so far have secured three Para-Shooting slots for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. This demonstrates the depth and high quality within its ranks. This bodes well not only for Rio 2016 also onwards to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.”*

*“The Para-Shooting team selection announcement will take place in June 2016. Then next steps will be the Rio 2016 medal target of 1 gold medal in Para-Shooting, a sport that is recognised as one of the most competitive on the Paralympic Games schedule.”*

*Malcolm Humm, High Performance Director, Paralympics New Zealand*

## Rio 2016 Para-Shooting

There are a total of 12 medal events on the Para-Shooting programme at the Rio 2016 Paralympics. Three events are men only, three are women only, with six mixed events. Men and women compete separately in the 10m air rifle standing SH1, 10m air pistol SH1 and 50m rifle three positions SH1 events. The mixed events are: 10m air rifle prone SH1, 10m air rifle standing SH2, 10m air rifle prone SH2, 50m free rifle prone SH 1, 25m pistol SH1 and 50m pistol SH1.

The aim of the competition is to shoot a series of shots inside the centre ring of the bull's-eye. The target is comprised of 10 concentric scoring rings with a score grade of 1-10. In all finals, and in some qualification rounds, scoring rings are subdivided into a further 10 scoring zones to give a decimal place scoring system, with 10.9 being the centre of the target. Competitors accumulate points for the value of their shots.

The top eight Para-Athletes in the qualification round advance to the final. Qualification scores are not carried over to the final which starts from scratch. The lowest scores are eliminated over the course of a final until the final two Para-Athletes battle it out for gold.

**Medal events:** 12.

**Where:** National Shooting Centre, Deodoro.

**When:** Thursday 8 September to Wednesday 14 September 2016.

More info: [www.rio2016.com/en/paralympics/shooting](http://www.rio2016.com/en/paralympics/shooting)



## Paralympics Medals Won

1 gold, 4 bronze

### **GOLD**

- Mixed Air Rifle Standing SH2 (Athens 2004) – Mike Johnson

### **BRONZE**

- Mixed Air Pistol 2-5 (Arnhem 1980) – Dave Tarrant
- Women's Air Rifle Integrated (New York / Stoke Mandeville 1984) – Allison Smith
- Mixed Air Rifle Standing SH2 (Beijing 2008) – Mike Johnson
- Mixed 10 m Air Rifle Standing SH2 (London 2012) – Mike Johnson

## The Stars of Para-Shooting

At the London 2012 Paralympic Games, China and Korea were the two dominant nations, winning seven out of the 12 gold medals available. China's outstanding talent is Cuiping Zhang, a double gold medallist at London 2012. Some of the other leading names in the sport include Swedish Para-Shooting legend Jonas Jacobsson, Minna Leinonen of Finland, Veronika Vadovicova of Slovakia and Matt Skelhon of Great Britain.

New Zealand boasts an outstanding crop of Para-Shooters led by Michael Johnson, the Athens 2004 Paralympic Mixed 10m air rifle standing SH2 champion. Meanwhile kiwi duo, Jason Eales and Greg Reid, have won 2015 World Cup events in the mixed 10m air rifle prone SH2 and SH1 categories, respectively.

## Did you know?

- Swedish Para-Shooter, Jacob Jacobsson, who made his Paralympic debut in 1980, has won 17 gold medals spanning nine Paralympics. He plans to compete in Rio 2016.
- In air rifle events the bulls-eye is only 0.05cm wide – as big as a full stop.
- Top kiwi marksman Michael Johnson trains at a range set up at his Waiuku home.
- 10m events held with an air rifle or air pistol are fired with a bullet 4.5mm in diameter. For the 25m pistol and 50m pistol and rifle events the bullets are 5.6mm in diameter.
- A third Para-Shooting class is SH3, which identifies visually-impaired athletes, although this is not included on the Paralympic programme.
- Athletes use .22 calibre rifles and air guns. Upon trigger activation, the CO<sub>2</sub> liquid changes to gas and activates the projectile towards the target. The pneumatic rifle uses a multiple pump system to store air pressure in a reservoir and trigger compression activates the projectile towards the target.

## Terminology

- Paralympian** A Para-Athlete who has taken part in Paralympic Games.
- Para-Shooter** The term used to describe an athlete with a disability who competes in the sport of shooting.
- Flyer** A shot that lands far outside the target.
- Drop** Identifies when a score is low.
- Deep ten** A shot that scores a 10.7 or better.

## Timeline

- 1976** Para-Shooting was introduced as a medal sport on to the Paralympic programme for the first time at the Toronto Games with three medal events. A total of 37 Para-Shooters competed, including three women Para-Athletes.
- 1984** Some 29 medal events featured on the Para-Shooting programme at the New York 1984 Paralympic Games.
- 1992** At the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games the format moved away from a disability-oriented classification system towards a functional classification system with integrated events.
- 1994** The inaugural IPC Shooting World Championships took place in Linz in Austria. The event is later established as a quadrennial event.
- 2012** A total of 140 Para-Shooters from 44 countries competed in 12 medal events at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.
- 2014** At the IPC Shooting World Championships in Suhl, Germany, 250 Para-Athletes from more than 45 countries gathered to compete.

## Classification detail

In Para-Shooting, there are three different sport classes for Para-Athletes with physical impairments:

### **Sport class SH1 (Pistol):**

This sport class is designated to Para-Athletes with upper and/or lower limb impairment for competition in pistol events.

### **Sport class SH1 (Rifle):**

This sport class is designated to Para-Athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.

### **Sport class SH2:**

This sport class is for rifle events only, and is designated to Para-Athletes with upper limb impairment (which necessitates them to use a shooting stand to support the rifle), all or not in combination with lower limb impairment.

For further details please go to [www.paralympics.org.nz](http://www.paralympics.org.nz) or to [www.hpsnz.org.nz](http://www.hpsnz.org.nz)