National Para-Equestrian Classifier Course

Venue: British Equestrian Federation, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, CV8 2RH
Date: 02 – 03 November 2024
Fee: £250 per delegate (including VAT)

Course Overview

This two-day course will provide you with the skills to become a National Level Para-Equestrian Classifier, subject to completing post course requirements. It is designed to use your knowledge and experience as a qualified physiotherapist or medical practitioner as a base on which to develop skills to become an accredited National Classifier. This is a theory-based and practical course which will allow you to put your learning into action through working with other qualified professionals as well as volunteer athletes.

Course Trainers

- **Fredy Versluys** is a physiotherapist from the Netherlands and has worked for 40 years in a general practice and at a children's rehabilitation centre. Alongside this, Fredy has 50 years' experience teaching riding lessons at an RDA riding school in Amsterdam. She been a National Classifier since 2006 and an international classifier since 2008 and currently holds a Level 4 FEI Classifier qualification, she is also a member of the FEI Classification Working Group and FEI Para Driving Working Group. Fredy has a special interest in para driving and the use of compensating aids.
- **Jenny Byng** (HCPC, MCSP, MMACP) is Chair of the National Classification Panel, a National Classifier and FEI Level 2 International Classifier. Jenny has come from a musculoskeletal background but currently has a special interest in Hippotherapy. A horse rider all her life, she has been involved in para equestrian for over 10 years as an RDA volunteer and coach.
- **Ami Tilston** (MSc, BSc Hons, MCSP, HCPC, ACPAT Cat A) is a National Classifier and a member of the National Classification Panel. Ami comes from a paediatric physiotherapy background with a qualification in Hippotherapy prior to gaining her Veterinary Physiotherapy masters to hold ACPAT category A status. Ami has volunteered and coached within RDA since 2004, owning horses her whole life and competing at national level including HOYS.

Core activities include:

- Introduction to para sport and para-equestrian competition:
    - Including regulating bodies, rules and regulations
    - Understanding the existence of Grades and Profiles relevant to Para Dressage and Driving.
- An overview of the Athletes' journey to be classified:
    - Eligibility
    - Application requirements
    - Internal processing procedures
- An in depth look at the physical assessment
    - Athlete interview
    - Physical assessment and use of appropriate assessment scales for the impairment described
    - Scoring the assessment and allocating the profile and grade
- Considering the other elements that come under the banner of classification:
    - How the classification team works together, the processes in place to support this way of working and the support you will receive
    - Observation Assessments (theory)
    - Compensating aids – what are they and how do the Athletes qualify for them.

How do I complete the BEF National Classifier qualification?

The delegates will need to:

- Participate in and meet all requirements to complete the Para-Equestrian Classifier Course, including:

- Active participation
- Submit four to six completed para-equestrian classification case studies within two months of the course to incorporate coordination, power and ROM classifications.

- To attend the Classifiers CPD training and hub weekend at Hartpury College in July 2025 where you will be mentored by a senior member of the National Team to complete the qualification. Upon completion of these requirements and where the delegate demonstrates they have a strong understanding of the technical elements of classification, they would become a qualified National Classifier.

Who is eligible to attend the course?
Essential requirements

- Qualified as a physiotherapist or medical practitioner with current authority to practice in their home country.
- An understanding of equestrian dressage and driving, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport.
- Speak and write English sufficiently to communicate with other classifiers and athletes.
- Experience assessing patients/athletes with physical impairments resulting in activity restrictions.
- Experience working as part of a team.
- Commitment to further learning and professional development.

Desirable requirements

- Knowledge of the physical requirements of riding a horse.
- Experience as a rider.

Course includes:
- Two-day course
- Course materials
- Lunch and refreshments.

How to book
Complete the booking form and return it to Felicity Towers felicity.towers@bef.co.uk

How to pay
To pay via BACs transfer to British Equestrian; The office will contact you with the details.

Terms and Conditions
- Your place is not confirmed until the British Equestrian (BEF) has received your booking form, full payment and you have received confirmation of your place.
- Places on this course are non-refundable. If you are unavailable, a suitable, alternative delegate may attend on your behalf subject to BEF agreement.
- In the unlikely event that BEF has to cancel the course you shall receive a full refund.

Booking deadline
The booking deadline for this course is **04 October 2024**.

Contact
Felicity Towers, Para Classification Coordinator – Felicity.towers@bef.co.uk