



Job description: Classification Athlete Peer Support (CAPS)

Overview:

As a Classification Athlete Peer Support (CAPS) volunteer, you'll play a meaningful role within a wider network of support available to Paralympic athletes navigating the classification journey.

Drawing on your own lived experience — alongside the expertise, training, and ongoing support from the system around you — you'll simply be there to listen, relate, and help fellow athletes feel heard and understood. Your support will contribute to a psychologically safe and inclusive environment, ensuring athletes can navigate the classification process with greater confidence and understanding.

Main duties:

- **Support athlete classification experiences**
 - Serve as a trusted peer support to Paralympic athletes throughout or at any point during or after the classification process, sharing insights and lived experiences of classification.
 - Actively listen to athletes' concerns, providing a safe, validating space for them to express challenges and signposting to support services as required.
- **Guidance and resources**
 - Where appropriate, signpost athletes to relevant support services, inclusive of the classification hub, offered by ParalympicsGB (PGB), the British Elite Athletes Association (BEAA) and the UK Sports Institute (UKSI), as well as any other relevant organisations.
- **Professionalism and integrity**
 - Maintain confidentiality and conduct all interactions with professionalism and care.
 - Uphold the values of fairness, inclusivity, and athlete welfare within the classification system.
 - Raise any serious concerns through appropriate reporting channels, particularly in relation to integrity or potential misrepresentation.
- **Feedback**
 - Actively engage in bi-yearly ad-hoc 'check-ins' with key contacts in the Classification Hub to provide feedback on key themes of athlete engagement within the hub.

Key skills and attributes:

- Lived experience of Paralympic classification and strong understanding of its implications across a range of impairment groups.

- Empathetic and clear communicator, with strong active listening skills.
- Organised, self-managing, and reliable in supporting others while maintaining boundaries.
- Committed to creating inclusive, psychologically safe spaces.

Benefits of becoming a Classification Athlete Peer Support:

- Contribute to a fairer, more transparent classification experience for fellow athletes.
- Build valuable skills in one to one support, communication and active listening, advocacy, and leadership.
- Engage directly with key decision-makers in the Paralympic system.
- Flexible hours chosen by you, with the option to pause availability when needed — making it easy to fit around camps, competitions, and other personal or professional commitments
- Stand out amongst your competitors with valid and meaningful work experience and highly sought after core skills in active listening, communication, trust and rapport— essential for future careers in: counselling, coaching, therapeutic support and welfare and wellbeing roles.

Support for the role:

- **Training and best practices:** Access to training sessions and best practice guidance to ensure effectiveness in your role. Ongoing support and supervision within the CAPS framework.
- **Confidential assistance:** Confidential support from BEAA athlete support team where required.
- **CPD opportunities:** Regular notifications of relevant CPD opportunities from UKSI, PGB and BEAA.