

Implementing evidence-based changes in classification for Para-sport

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Development of sport-specific classification for VI sports

R&D across all sports



VI Swimming



VI Judo



VI Snow sports



VI Shooting



VI Athletics



5-a-side Football



Goalball



How to perform classification research

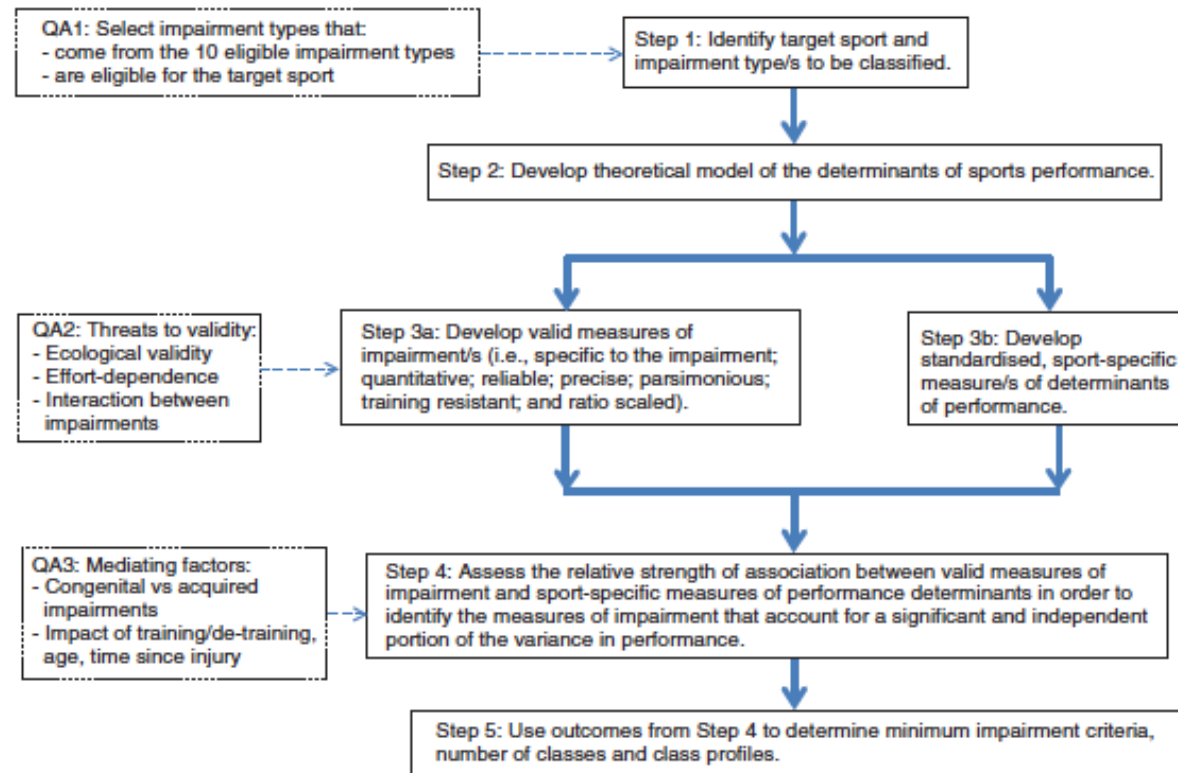
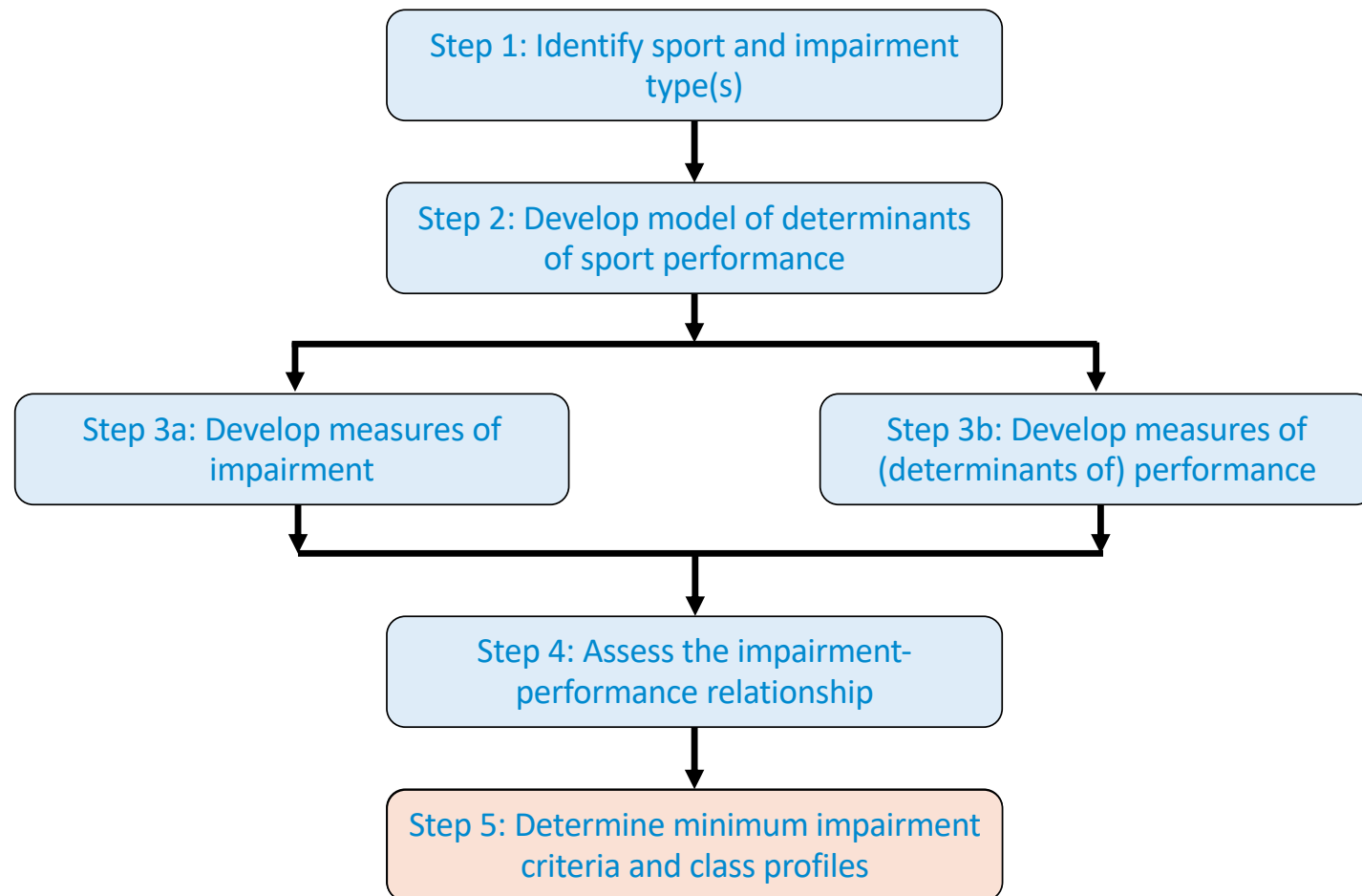


Figure 7.1 Schematic representation of research required for the development of evidence-based systems of classification. The boxes with the solid outlines (Steps 1–5) are essential. The boxes with dashed outlines (QA1–QA3) are not essential to every research program, but are generally important quality assurance (QA) measures.

How to perform classification research



How can we decide on where to draw the 'line' for the minimum impairment criteria and between classes?

Do we really 'hand over' our recommendations for implementation by others?

JSS Special Issue



Journal of Sports Sciences

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

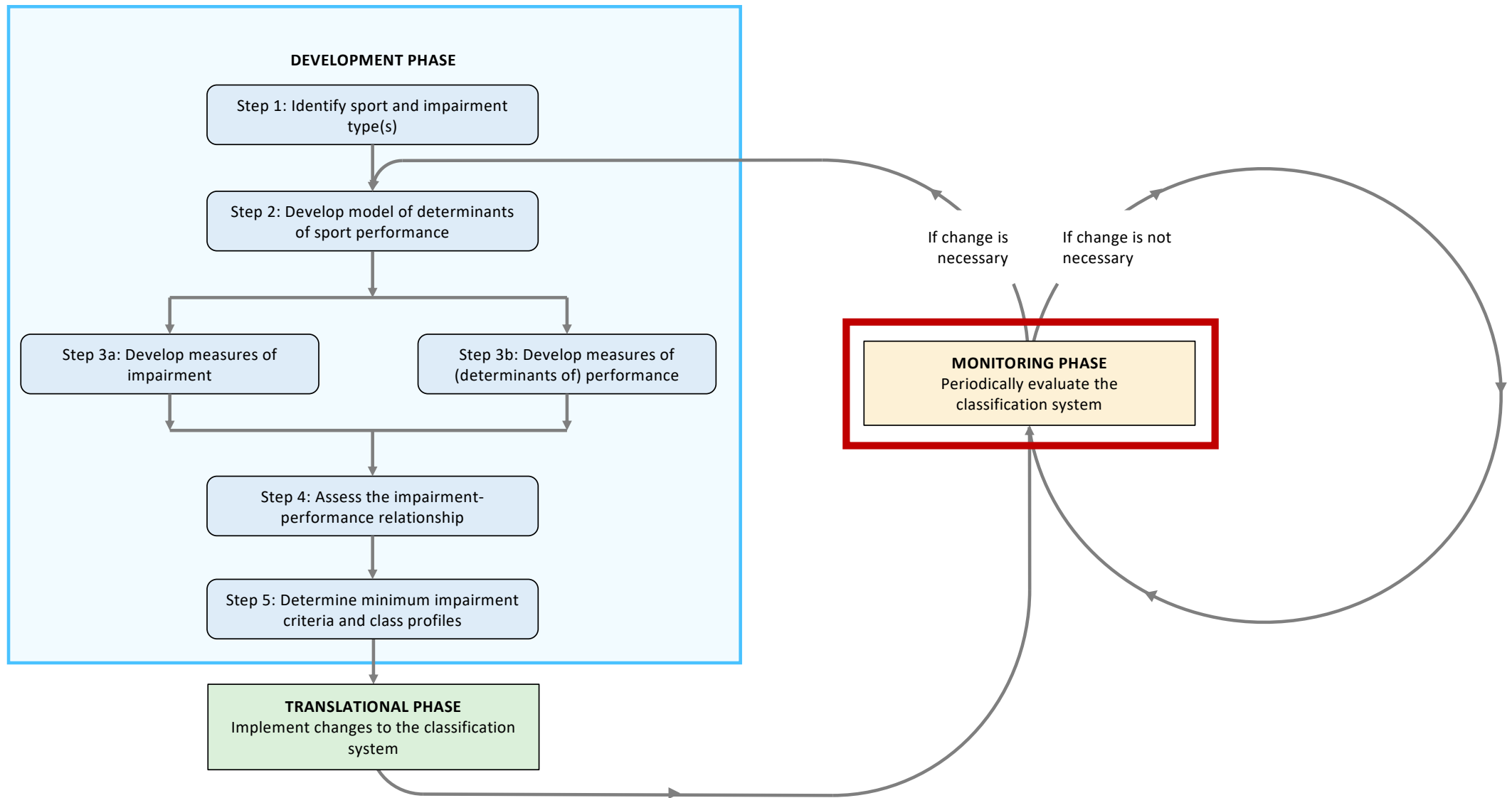
ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rjsp20>

Classifying the evidence for evidence-based classification in Paralympic sport

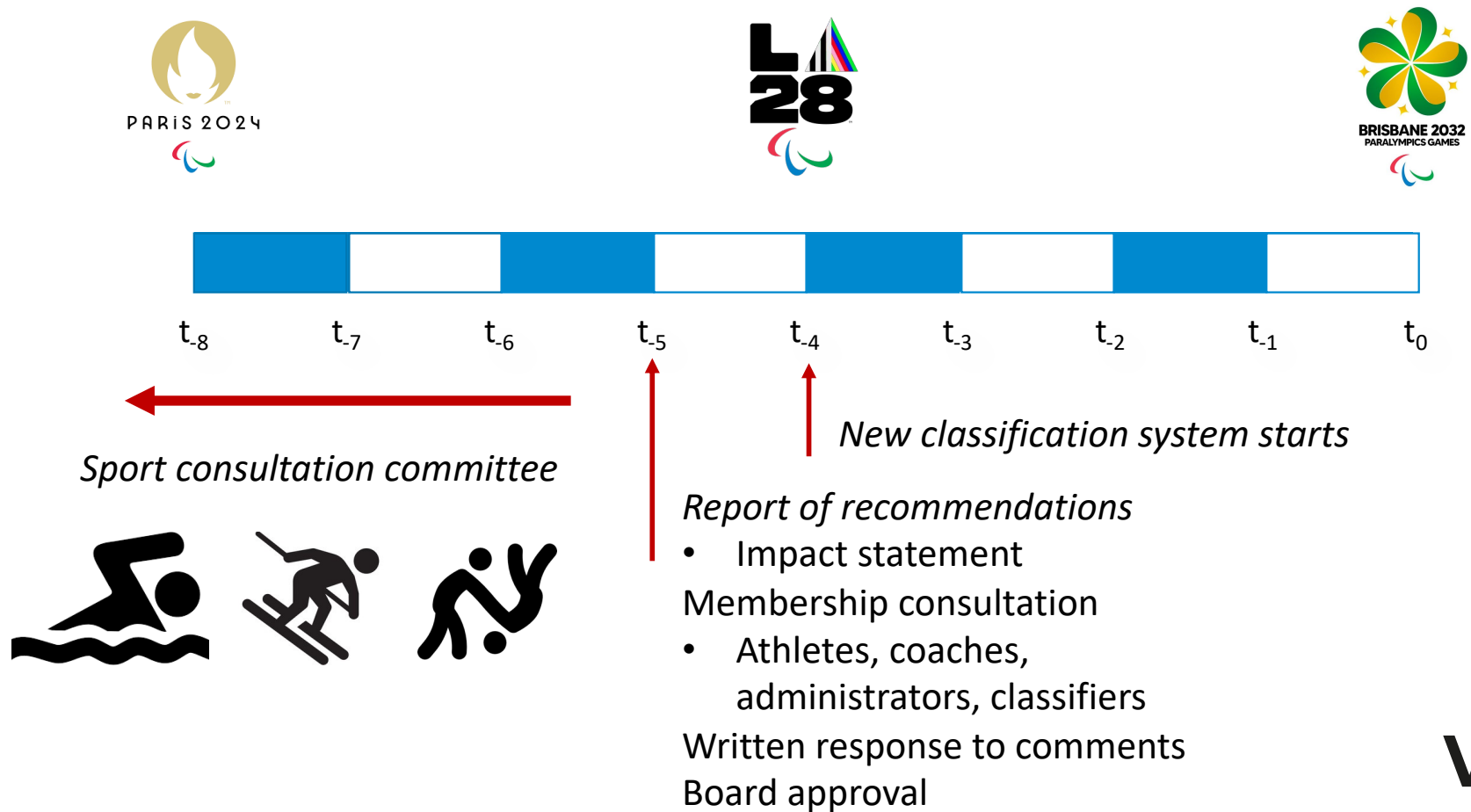
David L. Mann, Sean M. Tweedy, Robin C. Jackson & Yves C. Vanlandewijck

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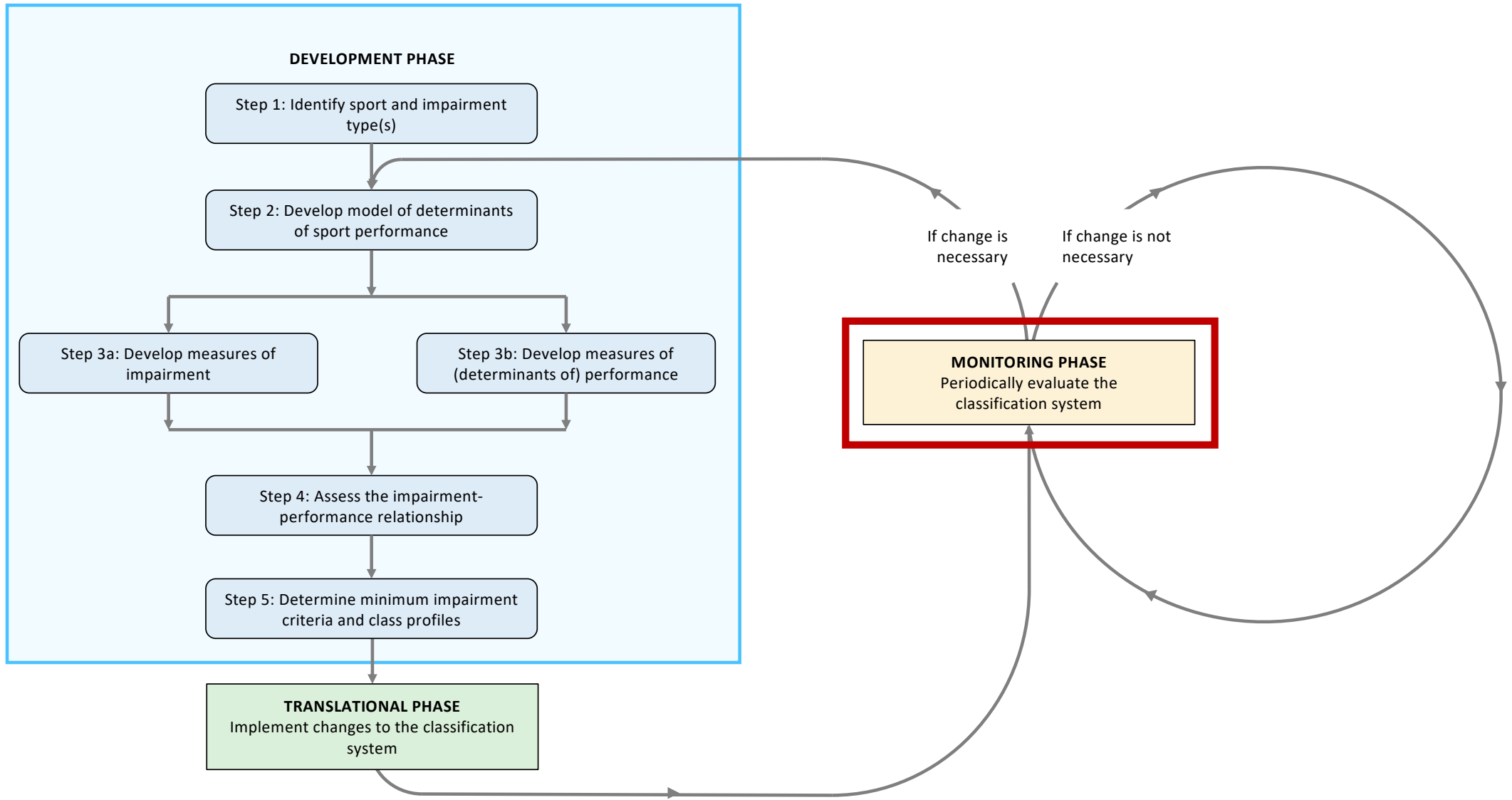
Timeline to implementation



IF considerations

- Contingency plans for athletes who will lose their eligibility
 - Funding may be cut
 - May feel like their previous achievements were undermined
 - Offer opportunities in other sports
- Change in classification rules and procedures
 - Change in classification forms
- Re-education of classifiers
 - Push-back from classifiers
 - Not used to conducting different tests
 - Don't understand the principles of evidence-based classification
 - Don't understand the 'exclusiveness' of Para sport

When is the 'job done'?



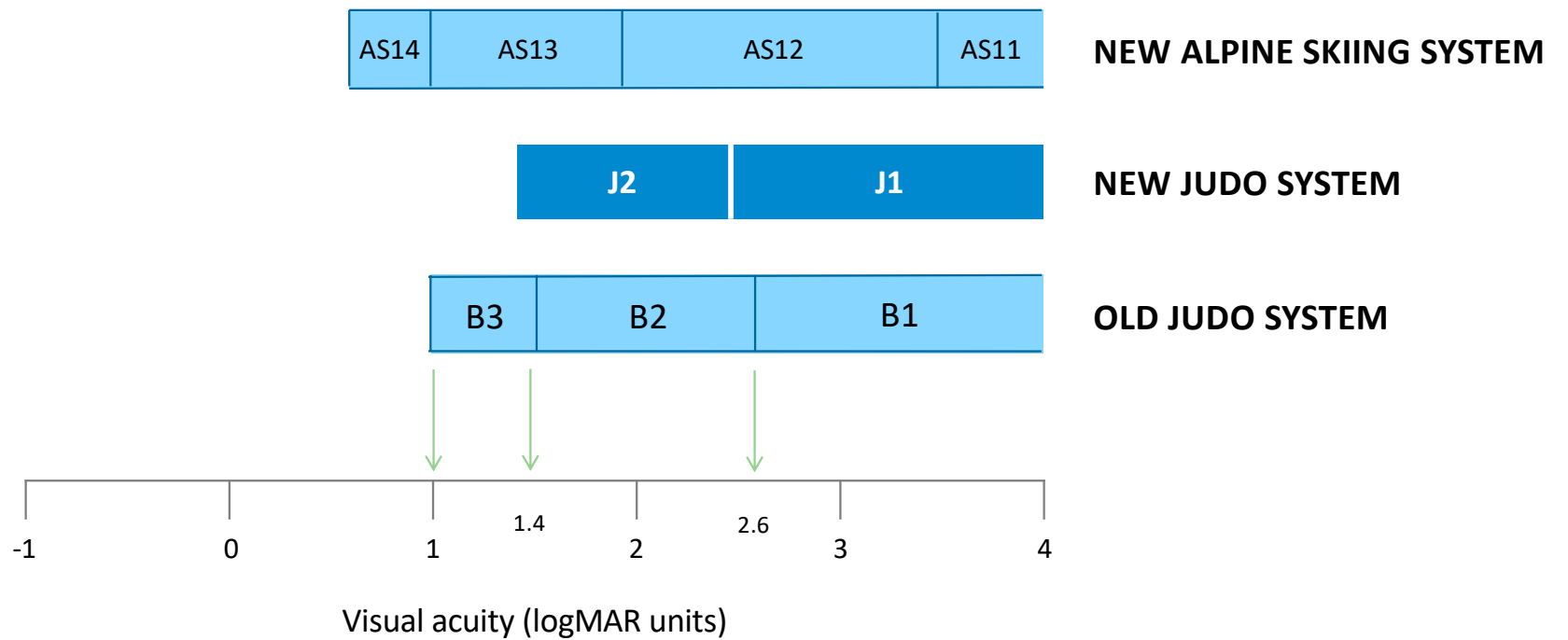
Working towards the 'ground truth' classification system

**NEW CLASSIFICATION
SYSTEM**



GROUND TRUTH

Consequences of changing a classification system

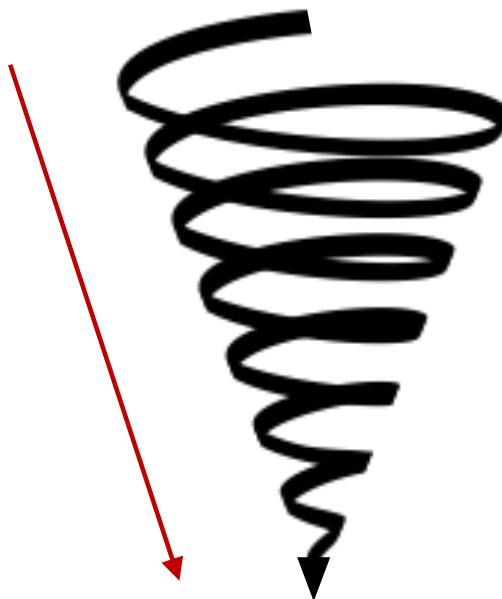


Working towards the 'ground truth' classification system

NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Impairment-performance relationship hasn't changed

- Change in the athlete population
- Change in the professionalism of the athlete population
- Improved measures of impairment



GROUND TRUTH

Impairment-performance relationship has changed

- Change in sport rules
- Change in sport equipment
- Change in eligible impairment types

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- Peter Allen
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[International Paralympic Committee](#)

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[International Blind Sports Federation](#)

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