

Goalball Information Sheet

About the sport

Goalball is the exciting team sport played competitively by athletes with vision impairment. Goalball's distinctive competition atmosphere sets it apart from any other sporting experience. The games are required to be kept silent as 3 players on each team, who are all completely blindfolded by "blackout" eyeshades, use their entire body to block a 1.25kg audible ball from making it into the opponents goal.

This intense game allows players of all degrees of vision to participate at an equal level together. Players are able to orientate themselves to the 18 x 9 metre court through tactile line markings. Players must react instantly to the sound of the bells inside the ball that help the players distinguish where the opposition has thrown it from. The duration of a Goalball game lasts for two 12 minute halves with a three minute half time break.

Who can compete?

Goalball is open to athletes with a vision impairment. Athletes are required to submit medical reports and meet the minimum impairment criteria in order to compete.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Vision Impairment	Impairment of the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or vision area of the brain, resulting in a loss of vision in both eyes. Caused by conditions such as albinism, macular degeneration, macular or cone rod dystrophy and retinitis pigmentosa.	Visual acuity loss in both eyes (how far they can see) with best corrected vision. Vision is less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.00); or Visual field restriction in both eyes (how wide they can see) of less than 40 degrees diameter with best corrected vision.

Goalball Sport Classes

Although Goalball players are allocated a sport class, they all compete together wearing blindfolds.

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
Athletes with Vision Impairment	
B1	Players who are blind and have no light perception.
B2	Players who have very low vision in both eyes either in how far they can see (visual acuity <2/60; LogMAR 1.5-2.6 inclusive) or how wide they can see (visual field <10 degrees diameter)
B3	Players who have low vision in both eyes, but more vision than B3 players. Vision is affected either in how far they can see (visual acuity <6/60; LogMAR 1-1.4 inclusive) or how wide they can see (visual field < 40 degrees diameter).
Not Eligible (NE)	Players do not meet the minimum criteria for the Para sport classes, but may still be able to compete. Contact Goalball Australia for more information.

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

Goalball Australia

W: [Goalball Australia](#)

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Note: The classification information provided is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in accordance with the rules of the sport.