

Para Fencing Information Sheet

About the sport

Para fencing was one of the foundation sports on the Paralympic program in Rome, Italy, in 1960. Male and female compete in individual and team events (with three fencers to a team), including foil, épée and sabre.

Athletes compete in wheelchairs that are fastened to the floor. Chairs allow the fencers freedom of movement, and the activity is as fast-paced as in fencing competitions for athletes without impairments.

Who can compete?

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

Eligible Impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Muscle weakness/Impaired Muscle Power	Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or other spinal condition or change in muscle origin/insertion	Loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle
Impaired Passive Range of Movement	Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.	Joint movement restriction in at least one hip, knee or ankle.
Limb Deficiency	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.	Loss of one foot or shortened limb of similar length.
Limb length difference	Significant difference in leg length due to a deficiency at birth or trauma.	Leg length difference of at least 7 cm.

Co-ordination impairments: Hypertonia/Spasticity, Motor Ataxia, Dyskinesia	Impairments from neurological conditions such as acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis that affect co-ordination and smoothness of movement and balance.	Co-ordination or movement difficulties in at least one leg.
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Para Fencing Sport Classes

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
A	Fencers who have impairments in one or both legs and have good control of their trunk and fencing arm. Fencers are able to lunge forwards quickly and forcefully in attack and lean backwards in defence with excellent control and agility.
B	Fencers who have impairments in their legs and trunk and may have mild impairments in their fencing arm.
C	Fencers who have impairments in their arms, torso and legs. Fencers have a moderate impairment in their fencing arm.
Not Eligible (NE)	Athlete does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para sport classes but may still be able to compete. Contact Australian Fencing Federation for more information.

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

Australian Fencing Federation

W: www.fencing.org.au

E: classification@fencing.org.au

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. Not all classes may have events at the Paralympic Games.

