

What is Para sport Classification?

Classification is at the centre of Para sport. It determines the eligibility and groupings of Para athletes for competition, based on their impairments.

As each Para sport requires athletes to use their bodies differently, classification systems are different in each sport, which is critical to ensure that the best athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

01 When do I need to get classified?

- Classification is only required for formal sport competition, not for social sport or recreation.
- Event entry information will describe what level of classification is required.
- Some National Sport Organisations (NSOs) offer provisional level classifications for athletes just starting out in their sport.

02 How do I get classified?

- Contact the NSO for the sport at least two months before classification.
- The NSO will provide information and forms that are needed.
- Athletes with a physical disability or vision impairment will need to make a classification appointment. Athletes with an intellectual disability will need to have a specialist complete paperwork.

03 Medical paperwork

- The athletes' medical doctor or specialist must complete medical forms prior to classification and send this to the NSO.
- This should be done at least one month in advance.
- The NSO and classifiers check the medical forms to make sure the athlete has a diagnosis and impairment that is eligible to compete in Para sport.

04 What to bring to classification?

Athletes will need to:

- Wear sports clothing.
- Bring one support person with them to classification.
- Bring any equipment used for competition such as sport prostheses, sports wheelchairs or competition equipment.
- Athletes with a vision impairment must bring any glasses, sunglasses or contact lenses.
- Bring any medical documents.

05 Arriving at classification

- Athletes and their support person will need to read and sign a classification consent form.
- The consent form describes what will happen during classification, the athletes' responsibilities and how an athletes' classification information will be used.

06 What happens during classification?

The classifiers will test athletes in three steps:

- 1) Perform medical tests such as vision tests or measure of strength and movement called the Physical Assessment.
- 2) Perform sport tests and drills called the Technical Assessment.
- 3) Some athletes are observed by classifiers while they are competing called the Observation Assessment

Classifiers will:

- Record and keep information on a classification form.
- Take video or photographs if needed.

Each classification will take 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Athletes and their support person must be honest and try their best on all tests throughout classification. There are consequences and it is considered cheating if you do not.

07 Allocation of Sport Class and Sport class status

- Classifiers will give each athlete a sport class such as B2 or T37 for competition.
- Athletes will also be given a sport class status. Athletes with Review next available opportunity (RNAO) and Fixed Review Date (FRD) will need to be seen again for classification either at the next competition or after the review date. Athletes with a Confirmed (C) sport class status will not need to be seen again.
- Most athletes will have to be classified more than once throughout their sporting life.

08 Classification Results

- Every athlete's classification is published on the NSO website on the Classification Masterlist.

09 What if you do not agree with your classification?

If an athlete disagrees with their Classification, it may be protested. Contact your NSO for the process.

For more information

Contact your NSO or Paralympics Australia at www.paralympic.org.au