Australian Classifier Fact sheet

What is Classification?

Paralympic sport exists so that athletes with disabilities have equal opportunities to compete and be successful in sport. Classification groups athletes who have similar impairments together into classes for competition in their particular sport.

Classification involves an assessment to determine how the athlete's impairment influences the activities required in their sport, regardless of their level of training or development. Classification involves athletes undergoing physical, medical, visual or cognitive testing; demonstrating sport skills, and being observed during competition. Each Paralympic sport has a different classification system.

Classification allows athletes to determine whether they are eligible to compete in Paralympic sport and who they compete against.

What is a Classifier?

Classifiers are officials who provide sport specific assessments, to determine in which class an athlete with a disability will compete. Classifiers work closely with their relevant sport organisations, the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and other Australian classifiers.

While classifiers work in a voluntary capacity at a state, national and international level, all costs associated with travel are covered.

Types of Classifiers

International Federations have two different types of classifiers: medical and technical. Some federations use only one of these, and some use a combination of both.

Interested in becoming a classifier?

The APC works in partnership with the National Federations to identify the needs for classifier development. The process involves identifying suitably qualified and interested individuals within targeted sports and geographic areas to progress through the pathway below.

Classifier Pathway

Potential Classifier

a) **Pre-requisite qualifications**

To be eligible to complete the Australian Classifier pathway candidates must meet the following prerequisites:

- **Medical classifiers**
  Currently registered medical professional (physiotherapist or medical doctor, ophthalmologist/orthoptist); with minimum 5 years clinical experience with people with disabilities.
- **Technical classifiers**
  Tertiary qualified individuals in sport science/ kinesiology / human movement science or equivalent; and additional sport specific experience.

Involvement in their chosen sport
Classification is a sport specific process, and all individuals must have a strong understanding of their particular sport. Experience may be from being a participant, official, coach, volunteer or administrator.

b) Endorsement from Sport
To be eligible for training as a classifier, trainees must obtain the support of the state or national federation for their sport. It is the trainee's responsibility to initiate contact with the appropriate organisation.

c) Completion of Introductory Classifier Training
Most International Sport Federations deliver an introductory learning programme for potential classifiers. This may take the form of self directed, online, face to face learning programme.

Costs for Stage 1 are the responsibility of the applicant.
Successful completion of Stage 1 is required to progress to Stage 2.

National Trainee Classifier
a) Face to face workshop
This program is run by approved Classification Educators. Upon successful completion of the programme individuals shall be awarded National Trainee Classifier status in their sport.

b) Practical or Competition based classification training
Trainee National Classifiers undertake classification as part of a panel whilst being mentored and observed to a set of criteria by approved National Classification Educators.

c) Certification as National classifier
Subject to meeting all criteria above individuals will be certified by the APC as Australian National Classifiers

National Classifier
a) Classification Opportunities
National level classifiers are typically appointed to state based sporting events as part of a classification panel, and can expect to participate in a minimum of 1 state based classification day annually. They may also be asked to classify 1-2 times yearly at National events around Australia.

b) Mentoring and Professional Development
Classifiers are linked to the national classifier network for peer support, as well as provided with regular information updates and workshops for further skill development.

International Classifier
National classifiers may be identified to attend international classifier training and certification as experience and competencies develop.

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Classifier Pathway Structure

Potential Classifier

Pre-requisite Qualifications	International Federation Introductory Programme	National/State Sport Endorsement

Trainee Classifier

Face to face Workshop	Competition experience

National Classifier

Athlete Classification Opportunities	Mentoring	Ongoing Education

International Classifier Training

International Classifier

Further information

Australian Paralympic Committee   www.paralympic.org.au/classification

Classification