

# Classification Information Sheet - Para-Rowing



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para-Rowing. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the classification rules of the sport, which are determined by the International Federation (FISA).

## What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the [FISA classification rules](#) to determine the following:

### 1. Does the athlete have an eligible impairment type?

An athlete must have a permanent eligible impairment type and provide medical documentation detailing their diagnosis and health condition.

### 2. Does the athlete meet the minimum impairment criteria for the sport?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimum impairment criteria.

### 3. What is the appropriate class to allocate the athlete for competition?

Classes are detailed in the classification rules for the sport and a classifier determines the class an athlete will compete in.

## Which Paralympic impairment groups compete in Para-Rowing?

Athletes are required to have a permanent, eligible impairment and will be required to provide medical diagnostic information about their diagnosis and impairment.

Impairment		Examples of health conditions
Vision Impairment		Reduced vision impacted by either an: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Impairment of the eye structure;</li><li>– Impairment of the optic nerve or pathways;</li><li>– Impairment of the visual cortex of the brain</li></ul> Includes albinism, Retinitis Pigmentosa, macular or rod cone dystrophy.
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Amputation from trauma, or illness; or Limb deficiency from birth
	Loss of muscle strength	Spinal cord injury, Spina Bifida, Transverse Myelitis, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Erbs Palsy, Muscular dystrophy

Physical Impairment Cont.	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, stroke, brain tumor, Multiple sclerosis, cerebellar ataxia, Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis or other conditions where hypertonia (spasticity, rigidity or dystonia), ataxia or athetosis are present.
	Joint movement restrictions	Arthrogryposis, Talipes Equinovarus, joint fusions

Athletes will be required to provide medical diagnostic information from their treating specialist(s) prior to classification that details their diagnosis and evidence of permanent eligible impairment. Further information about Medical Diagnostic information is available at [www.paralympic.org.au/classification](http://www.paralympic.org.au/classification).

## What is the Minimal Disability Criteria?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's disability results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimal disability criteria. FISA

Impairment		Minimal Impairment Criteria (Guide Only)
Vision Impairment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual acuity less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or</li> <li>- Visual field is less than 40 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision.</li> </ul>
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Leg: Loss of half of one foot. Arm: Full loss of three fingers in one hand.
	Loss of muscle strength	Leg: Loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle that impacts on rowing. Arm: Loss of strength in a shoulder, elbow, wrist or fingers that impacts on rowing.
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia), Ataxia or Athetosis that affect coordination in at least one joint.
	Joint movement restrictions	Leg: Joint movement restriction in one hip, knee or ankle that impacts on rowing. Arm: Joint movement restriction in one shoulder, elbow, wrist or fingers that impacts on rowing.

## What are the Paralympic classes for this sport?

The list below is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in a particular sport.



Class	Examples (Guide Only)
PR3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rowers who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms, who can utilise the sliding seat to propel the boat.</li> <li>- Rowers may have a <u>physical or vision impairment</u>.</li> <li>- Limb loss or deficiency, at least full loss of three fingers on one hand, or at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot,</li> <li>- Loss of muscle strength (ie. equivalent to incomplete S1 spinal cord injury</li> <li>- Minimal ataxia, athetosis, hypertonia (ie. Cerebral Palsy, brain injury, stroke or MS)</li> </ul>
PR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rowers who have functional trunk and arm movement and are unable to use the sliding seat to propel the boat due to significantly weakened function or mobility of their lower limbs.</li> <li>- Limb loss or deficiency equivalent to a double above leg amputation</li> <li>- Significant muscle strength loss in both legs equivalent to complete spinal cord injury at L3 level or incomplete lesion at L1</li> <li>- Ataxia, athetosis or hypertonia from CP, brain injury or stroke which affects both legs or one side of the body</li> </ul>
PR1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athletes have no or minimal trunk function; row with their arms and shoulders only. These athletes will also likely have decreased sitting balance and may use strapping around their mid-section to provide support and stability in the boat.</li> <li>- Ataxia, athetosis or hypertonia from CP, brain injury or stroke who may use a wheelchair or walking aid</li> <li>- Loss of muscle strength equivalent to complete spinal cord injury at T12 level.</li> </ul>

## How do I get classified?

Athletes with a **Vision Impairment** seek classification through [Paralympics Australia](#)

Athletes with a **Physical Impairment** seek classification through [Rowing Australia](#)

## Further Information

National	Rowing Australia E: <a href="mailto:gmarcks@rowingaustralia.com.au">gmarcks@rowingaustralia.com.au</a> P: +61 2 6214 7528	
	Paralympics Australia E: <a href="mailto:classification@paralympic.org.au">classification@paralympic.org.au</a> P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	World Rowing Federation (FISA)	