

Classification Information Sheet - Para-Triathlon



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para-Triathlon. 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 (ITU).

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the International Triathlon Union 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-triathlon?

Impairment	Examples of health conditions (Guide Only)	
Vision Impairment	Vision impacted by either an: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Impairment of the eye structure;– Impairment of the optic nerve or optic pathways;– Impairment of the visual cortex of the brain	
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Amputation from trauma, illness (ie. due to cancer); Limb deficiency (dysmelia) from birth
	Loss of muscle strength	Spinal cord injury, Spina Bifida, Transverse Myelitis, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Erbs Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, stroke, brain tumour, 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 (trauma)

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.

What is the Minimal Impairment 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 impairment criteria.

Impairment		Minimal Impairment – GUIDE ONLY
Vision Impairment		Visual acuity less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or visual field restricted to less than 40 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision.
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Leg: Amputation through hind foot or ankle Arm: Through wrist amputation
	Loss of muscle strength	Leg - Loss of strength in a hip, knee, ankle or foot that impacts on running, swimming and cycling. Arm - Loss of strength in a shoulder, elbow, wrist or hand that impacts on running, swimming or cycling.
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia) in at least one joint. Ataxia - unsteadiness or incoordination Athetosis - involuntary movement in fingers, hands or any other body part
	Joint movement restrictions	Joint movement restriction in lower limb (e.g. one hip, knee, ankle or foot). Joint movement restriction in upper limb (e.g. one shoulder, elbow, wrist or hand).

Minimum impairment criteria is further detailed in the [ITU Classification rules](#).

What are the Paralympic classes for this sport?

The list below is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers can provide a formal classification in a particular sport. Classification for athletes with a physical impairment is based on a points system and is broken into ambulant (PTS2 to PTS5) and wheelchair classes (PTWC1 and PTWC2). The PTVI class is for athletes with a vision impairment.

Class		Examples (Guide Only)
PTWC1	<p>Athletes must use a recumbent handcycle on the bike course and a racing wheelchair on the run segment.</p> <p>Athletes may have one or two handlers to support them in the transition phases</p>	<p>Athletes with a physical impairment with significant impact on the lower limbs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – loss of muscle strength (ie. spinal cord injury resulting in paraplegia or tetraplegia), – limb deficiency (ie. double above knee amputation) – joint movement restrictions with significant impact in lower limbs – neurological impairment with significant impact in lower limbs <p>Athletes have a 463 Raw Muscle Power score.</p>
PTWC2	<p>Athletes must use a recumbent handcycle on the bike course and a racing wheelchair on the run segment.</p> <p>Athletes may have one or two handlers to support them in the transition phases</p>	<p>Athletes with a physical impairment with significant impact on the lower limbs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – loss of muscle strength (ie. spinal cord injury resulting in paraplegia or tetraplegia), – limb deficiency (ie. double above knee amputation) – joint movement restrictions with significant impact in lower limbs – neurological impairment with significant impact in lower limbs <p>Maximum classification assessment score - 640,0 points.</p>
Class		Examples (Guide Only)
PTS2	<p>In the bike segment, the athlete uses a conventional bike and may have approved adaptations or prosthetics.</p> <p>In the run segment, athletes may use approved prosthetic or other supportive devices.</p>	<p>Ambulant athletes with a high degree of physical impairment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limb deficiency (ie. double above elbow amputation or above knee amputation) – loss of muscle power (ie. complete brachial plexus) – loss of range of motion (ie. significant restrictions in upper and lower limb) – neurological impairment (ie. hypertonia with a significant impact on upper and lower limbs) <p>Maximum classification assessment score - 909,9 points.</p>

<p>PTS3</p>	<p>In the bike segment, the athlete uses a conventional bike and may have approved adaptations or prosthetics.</p> <p>In the run segment, athletes may use approved prosthetic or other supportive devices.</p>	<p>Ambulant athletes with a moderate level of physical impairment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limb deficiency (ie. moderate multiple limb impairments) – neurological impairment (ie. moderate hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis) – impaired muscle power (ie. combined moderate upper and lower limb loss) – loss of range of motion (ie. partial brachial plexus, complete loss of range of motion in one arm). <p>Classification assessment score - 910,0 to 979,9 points.</p>
<p>PTS4</p>	<p>In the bike segment, the athlete uses a conventional bike and may have approved adaptations or prosthetics.</p> <p>In the run segment, athletes may use approved prosthetic or other supportive devices</p>	<p>Ambulant athletes with a mild physical impairment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limb deficiency (ie. through shoulder amputation or below knee amputation) – neurological impairment (ie. mild hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis) – impairment range of movement (ie. mild joint restrictions in one or more joints) – impaired muscle power (ie. moderate loss of arm or leg power) <p>Classification assessment score - 980,0 to 1091,9 points.</p>
<p>Class</p>		<p>Examples (Guide Only)</p>
<p>PTS5</p>	<p>In the bike segment, the athlete uses a conventional bike and may have approved adaptations or prosthetics.</p> <p>In the run segment, athletes may use approved prosthetic or other supportive devices.</p>	<p>Ambulant athletes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limb deficiency (ie. below elbow amputation) – neurological impairment (ie. mild hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis) – impairment range of movement (ie. mild joint restrictions in one or more joints) – impaired muscle power (ie. partial loss of arm or leg power) <p>Classification assessment score - 1092,0 to 1211,9 points.</p>

PTVI1	Athletes are tethered during the swim and run. Athletes use a tandem bicycle for the ride. A guide is mandatory for the event.	No light perception. Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60.
PTVI2	Athletes are tethered during the swim and run. Athletes use a tandem bicycle for the ride. A guide is mandatory for the event.	Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees.
PTVI3	Athletes are tethered during the swim and run. Athletes use a tandem bicycle for the ride. A guide is mandatory for the event.	Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees. <i>PTVI3 criteria is also the MIC criteria for the Visual Impairment class (PTVI).</i>

How do I get classified?

Athletes with a **vision impairment** seek classification through [Paralympics Australia](#)

Athletes with a **physical impairment** seek classification through [Triathlon Australia](#)

Further Information

National	Triathlon Australia E: info@triathlon.org.au P: +61 2 8332 6820	
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	International Triathlon Union	