

Classification Information Sheet – Para-Athletics

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para Athletics. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the [World Para Athletics](#) classification rules.

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the World Para Athletics 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 Athletics?

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

Eligible Impairment Type	Examples of health conditions
Intellectual Impairment	Must have a diagnosis of Intellectual Impairment by a psychologist.
Vision Impairment	<p>Reduced vision impacted by either an:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Impairment of the eye structure; – Impairment of the optic nerve or pathways; – Impairment of the visual cortex of the brain <p>Includes Albinism, Retinitis Pigmentosa, macular or rod cone dystrophy.</p>

Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Amputation resulting from trauma or illness, or limb deficiency from birth (dysmelia)
	Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury, Spina Bifida, Transverse Myelitis, brachial plexus injury, polio, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Erbs Palsy, Muscular dystrophy, Guillain-Barre Syndrome
	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.
	Impaired passive range of movement	Arthrogryposis, ankylosis, joint fusions or contractures from chronic immobilisation or trauma.
	Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length
	Short Stature	Achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta

What is the Minimum Impairment Criteria?

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.

Impairment		Minimum Impairment Criteria (Guide Only)
Intellectual Impairment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, prior to 18 years; and – Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.
Vision Impairment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visual acuity in both eyes with best corrected vision of less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or – Visual field restriction of less than 40 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision.
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Leg: At least loss of half of one foot Arm: At least one through wrist amputation or shortened arm of similar length, or; Complete loss of thumbs on both hands or loss of all four fingers on both hands.
	Impaired Muscle Power	Loss of muscle power in at least one wrist, elbow, shoulder, hip, knee or ankle.
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis in at least one limb.
	Impaired passive range of movement	Movement restriction in at least one elbow, shoulder joint, hip, knee or ankle.
	Leg length difference	Leg length difference of at least 7cm.
	Short Stature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adult standing height less than or equal to 145cm(males) / 137cm(females); and – Arm length less than or equal to 66cm(males) / 63cm(females); and – Total standing height plus arm length less than or equal to 200cm(males) / 190cm(females).

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

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)
Athletes with a Vision Impairment (compete standing)	
T/F 11	From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction. Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60 with best corrected vision.
T/F 12	Ability to recognise objects up to a distance of 2 metres. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.5 to 2.60 (below 2/60) with best corrected vision and/or visual field of less than ten (10) degrees diameter.
T/F 13	Can recognise contours between 2 and 6 metres away. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.40 – 1.0 (2/60 – 6/60) with best corrected vision and/or visual field of more than ten (10) degrees and less than forty (40) degrees diameter.
NB - T/F11 class <u>must</u> use a guide; T/F12 class <u>may elect</u> to use a guide; T/F13 <u>not eligible</u> for a guide	

Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment	
T/F 20	Must have IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, prior to 18 years. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills.

Athletes with Hypertonia, Ataxia or Athetosis (compete sitting)	
T/F 31	Significant involvement in all four limbs who propel their wheelchair with their feet on the track; and throw the club, shot put or discus in the field.
T/F 32	Poor functional strength in all four limbs and trunk but able to propel the wheelchair with their arms on the track; and throw the club, shot put or discus in the field.
T/F 33	Moderate (asymmetric or symmetric) quadriplegic or severe hemiplegic in a wheelchair with almost full functional strength in least impaired upper limb. Usually poor trunk control. Can propel a wheelchair with their arms on the track; and throw the shot put, discus and javelin.
T/F 34	Moderate to severe involvement of both legs and minimal limitation in trunk and upper limbs. Can propel the wheelchair with their arms on the track; and throw the shot put, discus and javelin.

Athletes with Hypertonia, Ataxia or Athetosis (compete standing)	
T/F 35	Moderate involvement in the lower limbs. Athletes can run, jump or throw.
T/F 36	All four limbs affected; upper limbs are usually more involved. Athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 37	Moderate involvement on one side of their body (hemiplegia). Athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 38	Minimal hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis. Athletes can run, jump or throw.

Athletes with Short Stature	
T/F 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adult standing height less than or equal to 130cm (males)/125cm (females); AND – Arm length less than or equal to 59cm (males)/57cm (females); AND – Standing height plus arm length less than or equal to 180cm (males)/173cm (females).
T/F 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adult standing height less than or equal to 145cm (males)/137cm (females); AND – Arm length less than or equal to 66cm (males)/63cm (females); AND – Standing height plus arm length less than or equal to 200cm (males)/190cm (females).

Athletes with Limb Deficiency, Muscle Weakness or Joint Restrictions (compete standing)	
T/F 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bilateral and/or single through and above knee amputation; or comparable lower limb joint restrictions or muscle weakness. – Athletes compete without prosthesis/protheses. Athletes can run, jump or throw.
T/F 43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bilateral below knee amputation; or comparable joint restrictions or muscle weakness in both lower limbs. – Athletes compete without prostheses. Athletes can run, jump or throw.
T/F 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single below knee amputation; or comparable joint restrictions, muscle weakness or leg length difference in one lower limb. – Athletes compete without a prosthesis. Athletes can run, jump or throw.
T/F 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Through or above elbow amputation, dysmelia, joint restrictions or muscle weakness in <u>both</u> upper limbs. Athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single above elbow amputation; or comparable joint restrictions or muscle weakness in one upper limb; or bilateral limb deficiency. Athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single below elbow amputation; or comparable joint restrictions or muscle weakness in one upper limb; or bilateral limb deficiency. Athletes run, jump or throw.

Athletes with Limb Deficiency, Muscle Weakness or Joint Restrictions (compete in track chair)	
T 51	Shoulder, triceps, elbow and wrist weakness, and usually no muscle power in the trunk. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level C5-6. Athletes sit in an upright position with knees under the chin.
T 52	Normal shoulder, elbow and wrist muscle power, poor to normal muscle power of the fingers with there usually being wasting of the intrinsic muscles of the hand, and usually no muscle power in the trunk. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level C7-8.
T 53	Normal arm muscle power with no abdominal and no lower spinal muscle activity. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level T1-7.
T 54	Normal arm muscle power with a range of trunk muscle power extending from partial trunk control to normal trunk control. Athletes may have significant leg muscle power. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level T8-S4.

Athletes with Limb Deficiency, Muscle Weakness or Joint Restrictions (compete seated)	
F 51	Shoulder, triceps, elbow and wrist weakness, and usually no muscle power in the trunk. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level C5-6. Athletes can throw the club or discus.
F 52	Good to normal shoulder, elbow and wrist muscle power, but poor muscle power in the fingers with there usually being wasting of the intrinsic muscles of the hand and no muscle power in the trunk. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level C7. Can compete in all throws.
F 53	Normal shoulder, elbow, wrist and finger muscle power, with weakness in fine movements in the hand (due to wasting of the intrinsic muscles) and no muscle power in the trunk. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level C8. Can compete in all throws.
F 54	Normal arm muscle power with no abdominal and no lower spinal muscle activity. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with complete spinal cord injury at neurological level T1-7. Can compete in all throws.
F 55	Normal arm muscle power and full or nearly full trunk muscle power and weakness in the hip flexors. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with bilateral hip disarticulations or complete spinal cord injury at neurological level T8-L1. Can compete in all throws.
F 56	Normal arm and trunk muscle power with weakness in the legs. Equivalent activity limitation to athlete with bilateral high above knee amputation, or unilateral hip disarticulation, or complete spinal cord lesion at L2-4. Can compete in all throws.
F 57	Athletes who meet minimum impairment criteria but do not fit the sport class profiles F51-56. Can compete in all throws.

Athletes with Limb Deficiency/Leg Length Difference (compete with a Prosthesis/Prostheses)	
T/F 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bilateral through or above knee amputation who compete with prostheses. – Athletes compete with a prosthesis/prostheses; athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bilateral below knee amputation who compete with prostheses. – Athletes compete with a prosthesis/prostheses; athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single through or above knee amputation who compete with a prosthesis. – Athletes compete with a prosthesis; athletes run, jump or throw.
T/F 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single below knee amputation; or comparable leg length difference who compete with a prosthesis. – Athletes compete with a prosthesis; athletes run, jump or throw.

How do I get classified?

Athletes with an **Intellectual Impairment** seek classification through [Sport Inclusion Australia](#)

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

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

Where do I find out further Information?

National	Athletics Australia E: athletics@athletics.org.au P: +61 3 8646 4550	
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	World Para Athletics	