

Classification Information Sheet - Para-Canoe



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para-Canoe. 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 Canoe Federation (ICF).

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the [ICF 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-Canoe?

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
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Amputation from trauma or illness, or Limb deficiency from birth (dysmelia)
	Impaired muscle power	Spinal cord injury, Spina Bifida, Transverse Myelitis, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Erbs Palsy, Muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome
	Impaired passive range of movement	Arthrogryposis, joint fusions, contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint

What is the Minimal 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 minimal disability criteria. Athletes complete tests to determine leg and trunk function. For more information refer to the [ICF Classification rules](#).

Impairment	Minimal Impairment Criteria (Guide Only)	
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Leg: Below knee amputation
	Loss of muscle strength	Leg: Loss of strength in hip and/or knee and/or ankle that impacts canoeing.
	Joint movement restrictions	Leg: Joint movement restriction in hip and/or knee and/or ankle that impacts canoeing.

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. KL class is for athletes competing in a kayak whereas VL class is for athletes competing in a Va'a (outrigger canoe).

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
KL1	Athletes with no or very limited trunk function and no leg function and typically need a special seat with high backrest in the kayak.
KL2	Athletes with partial trunk and leg function, able to sit upright in the kayak but might need a special backrest, limited leg movement during paddling.
KL3	Athletes with trunk functional and partial leg function, able to sit with trunk forward flexed position in the kayak and able to use at least one leg / prosthesis.
VL2	Athletes who have partial leg or trunk function but score lower than 13.5 on the trunk test and have a total score of 27 or lower.
VL3*	Athletes with full or almost full dynamic trunk function and can score 18 points or below on the leg and on-water test.

*VL3 class includes males ONLY in the Paralympic event schedule

What are the Non-Paralympic classes for this sport?

Class	Non-Paralympic Events (Guide Only)
VL1	Athletes who have no dynamic trunk function and no leg function and will typically paddle with a non-elastic quick release strap around the trunk to secure them in position.
VL3 (female)	Athletes with full or almost full dynamic trunk function and can score 18 points or below on the leg and on-water test.

How do I get classified?

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

Paddle Australia [Provisional Classification Form](#)

Further Information

National	Paddle Australia E: info@canoe.org.au P: +61 2 8116 9727	
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	International Canoe Federation (ICF)	