

# Classification Information Sheet

## Para-Equestrian



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para Equestrian. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the [Federation Equestre Internationale \(FEI\)](#) classification rules.

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

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the World Para Equestrian 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.

Impairment	Examples of health conditions (Guide Only)	
Vision Impairment	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 optic pathways;</li> <li>- Impairment of the visual cortex of the brain</li> </ul>	
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)
	Short Stature	Achondroplasia and similar conditions

## 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 impairment criteria.

Impairment	Minimal Impairment (Guide Only)	
Vision Impairment	Visual acuity less than or equal to 2/60 (log MAR 1.50); or visual field is less than 10 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision. (Page 36)	
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leg: Through ankle amputation</li> <li>- Arm: Loss of one hand through the wrist OR shortened arm of similar length</li> </ul>
	Loss of muscle strength	Muscle weakness in the legs, trunk and/or arms that impacts upon riding.
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia) in at least one joint.</li> <li>- Ataxia-unsteadiness or in co-ordination in at least one coordination test</li> <li>- Athetosis-involuntary movement in at least hands, feet or trunk.</li> </ul>
	Short Stature	Adult standing height less than 129.5 (Page 40)
	Joint movement restrictions	Joint movement restrictions in the legs, trunk and/or arms that impacts upon riding.

NB – minimum impairment criteria for physical impairment is person presents with at least 15% loss or impairment in at least one upper limb/lower limb/trunk or neck

For more information page numbers of the FEI Classification rules are indicated in brackets.

## 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.

Grade	Examples (Guide Only)
I	Athletes in Grade I have severe impairments affecting all limbs and trunk. The Athlete usually requires the use of a wheelchair. They may be able to walk with an unsteady gait. Trunk and balance are severely impaired.
II	Athletes in Grade II have either a severe impairment of the trunk and minimal impairment of the upper limbs or moderate impairment of the trunk, upper and lower limbs. Most Athletes in this Grade use a wheelchair in daily life.

III	Athletes in Grade III have severe impairments in both lower limbs with minimal or no impairment of the trunk or moderate impairment of the upper and lower limbs and trunk. Some Athletes in this Grade may use a wheelchair in daily life.
IV	Athletes in Grade IV have a severe impairment or deficiency of both upper limbs or a moderate impairment of all four limbs or short stature. Athletes in Grade IV are able to walk and generally do not require a wheelchair in daily life.  Grade IV also includes Athletes having a visual impairment equivalent to B1 with very low visual acuity and/or no light perception.
V	Athletes in Grade V have a mild impairment of movement or muscle strength or a deficiency of one limb or mild deficiency of two limbs.  Grade V also includes Athletes with visual impairment equivalent to B2 with a higher visual acuity than visually impaired Athletes competing in Grade IV and/or a visual field of less than 10 degrees diameter.

## How do I get classified?

Athletes with an **Visual Impairment** seek classification through [Paralympics Australia](#)

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

## Further Information

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	Paralympics Australia E: <a href="mailto:classification@paralympic.org.au">classification@paralympic.org.au</a> P: +61 2 9704 0500	 Paralympics Australia 
International	Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)	