

## Classification Information Sheet - Para-Swimming

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para-Swimming. 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 [World Para-Swimming](#).

### 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-Swimming?

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
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"> <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> <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	Health condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.  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 tumor, 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, Talipes Equinovarus, joint fusions
	Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length
	Short Stature	Achondroplasia and similar conditions

## 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 Disability – GUIDE ONLY
Intellectual Impairment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, prior to 18 years; and</li> <li>– Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. (p.106)</li> </ul>
Vision Impairment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Visual acuity in both eyes with best corrected vision of less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or</li> <li>– Visual field restriction of less than 40 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision. (p.103)</li> </ul>
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Arm: one arm - loss of at least 2/3 of palm in one hand OR shortened arm of similar length; complete loss of four fingers on both hands</li> <li>– Leg: Loss of at least half of one foot or more than ¾ loss on both feet</li> </ul>
	Loss of muscle strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Leg: Loss of strength in a hip, knee, ankle or foot that impacts on swimming</li> <li>– Arm: Loss of strength in a shoulder, elbow, wrist or hand that impacts on swimming</li> </ul>
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia) in at least two joints. Ataxia/athetosis-unsteadiness, incoordination or involuntary movements that affects co-ordination tests
	Short Stature	Adult standing height less than or equal to 145cm (males) / 137cm (females) (p.89)
	Joint movement restrictions	Joint movement restriction in one major joint that impacts on swimming
	Leg length difference	The must be at least a 20cm difference between both leg measures (p.90)

Minimum impairment criteria is further detailed in the [World Para Swimming 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.

The prefix for each class identifies the stroke;

- S** denotes the class for freestyle, backstroke and butterfly
- SB** denotes the class for breaststroke
- SM** denotes the class for individual medley

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
Swimmers with a <b>Physical Impairment</b>	
S1 SB1 SM1	Swimmers who have significant movement difficulties in arms, legs and trunk. Swimmers use a wheelchair for everyday mobility. Swimmers start in the water for all strokes, use assistance for water exit and entry and complete all strokes on their back.
S2 SB1 SM2	Swimmers have significant movement difficulties in arms, legs and trunk, but with more propulsive ability in arms or legs than S1 swimmers. Swimmers use water starts and assistance with water entry.
S3 SB2 SM3	Swimmers with good shoulder movement, some elbow and hand movement, with no use of their legs or trunk; swimmers with significant limb loss in all four limbs. Swimmers use water starts and assistance in the water.
S4 SB3 SM4	Swimmers with good use of arms and some hand weakness with no use of their trunk or legs; swimmers with significant limb loss to three or four limbs. Swimmers usually start in the water.
S5 SB4 SM5	Swimmers with good use of arms, but no trunk and leg movement; swimmers with some limb loss in three or four limbs. Some swimmers may start in the water.
S6 SB5 SM6	Swimmers with short stature; swimmers with good arms, some trunk and no leg movement; swimmers with significant impairment down one side of their body (limb loss, movement difficulties).
S7 SB6 SM7	Swimmers with good arms, trunk and some leg movement; swimmers with co-ordination weakness or limb loss down one side of the body.

S8 SB7 SM8	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with good hip and some leg movement; swimmers with limb loss of two limbs; swimmers without the use of one arm. Swimmers use regular starts, strokes and turns.
S9 SB8 SM9	Swimmers with weakness, limb loss or movement difficulties in one arm or leg only; swimmers with slight co-ordination difficulties. Swimmers use regular starts, strokes and turns.
S10 SB9 SM10	Swimmers with very minimal impairment that affects one joint, usually their foot or hand. Starts, turns and strokes are smooth and fluid.

Swimmers with a <b>Vision Impairment</b>	
S11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Athletes have very low visual acuity (how far they can see) and/or no light perception (LogMAR less than 2.60).</li> <li>– Swimmers wear blacked out goggles and use a tapper as they approach the end of the pool</li> </ul>
S12	<p>Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Visual acuity (how far they can see) (LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 inclusive). Athletes can see objects up to 2 meters away, what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres away (2/60 vision); or</li> <li>– Visual Field (how wide they can see). Athletes have tunnel vision less than 10 degrees diameter.</li> </ul>
S13	<p>Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Visual acuity (how far they can see) (LogMAR 1 to 1.40 inclusive). Athletes can see objects up to 6 meters away, what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres away (6/60 vision); or</li> <li>– Visual Field (how wide they can see). Athletes have tunnel vision less than 40 degrees diameter.</li> </ul>

Swimmers with an <b>Intellectual Impairment</b>	
S14	Swimmers with IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, acquired prior to 18 years. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.

## 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 [Swimming Australia](#)

## Where do I find out further Information?

National	Swimming Australia E: <a href="mailto:inclusion@swimming.org.au">inclusion@swimming.org.au</a> P: +61 2 6219 5600	
	Paralympics Australia E: <a href="mailto:classification@paralympic.org.au">classification@paralympic.org.au</a> P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	World Para Swimming	