

Classification Information Sheet – Para Table Tennis

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

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the World Para Table Tennis 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 Table Tennis?

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.
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.
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Leg: amputation of the forefoot – minimal 1/3 of foot amputated Playing arm: finger amputation (more than 1 finger) Non-Playing Arm: below elbow amputation (stump less than 2/3 ulna length or comparable dysmelia)
	Impaired Muscle Power	Leg: loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle that impacts on table tennis (strength loss distributed throughout the leg) Playing Arm: weakness of the hand that affects table tennis functions, such as grip, power and movements. Non-Playing Arm: paralysis of the arm with some residual function (ie.brachial plexus lesion)
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia) in at least one joint. Ataxia / athetosis – unsteadiness, incoordination or involuntary movements in at least one limb
	Impaired passive range of movement	Trunk: moderate to severe restrictions in trunk mobility Leg: single stiff ankle; moderate reduction of passive range of motion in the major joints Playing Arm: stiff wrist with functional grip; or mild reduction of passive range of motion of the elbow or shoulder Non-Playing Arm: severe restrictions in shoulder or elbow that clearly affects balance
	Leg length difference	Leg length difference of at least 7cm.
	Short Stature	Males standing height 140cm or less Female standing height 137cm or less

Minimum impairment criteria is further detailed in the [ITTF 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 Physical Impairment (Sitting Classes)	
TT1	<p>Players with no sitting balance with severe reduction of function in the playing arm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Very weak grip, weak wrist flexion, no active elbow extension because of no functional triceps – Neck and shoulder functions are normal – The non-playing arm takes care of the trunk position (balance function) <p>Ie. Spinal cord injury C5 or higher, post-polio syndrome, cerebral palsy (CP), or other similar</p>
TT2	<p>Players with no sitting balance with reduction of function in the playing arm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No normal strength of hand function – Elbow extension is sufficient and functional (strength 4-5) <p>Ie. Spinal cord injury C6-7, polio with weak hand and no trunk function, CP, or other similar</p>
TT3	<p>Players with poor to no sitting balance, although the upper part of the trunk may show activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Normal arm function, although some slight motor losses can be found in the playing hand without significant effect on table tennis skills – The non-playing arm keeps the trunk in position <p>Ie. Spinal cord injury C8-T8, polio without trunk balance and normal arm function, CP with reduced trunk functions, or other similar</p>
TT4	<p>Players with sitting balance that is not optimal because of poor stabilisation of the pelvis. The amount of balance depends on the amount of intact abdominal and back muscles.</p> <p>Ie. Spinal cord injury T8-L2, polio or orthopaedic conditions with comparable function, CP with better function than Class 3</p>
TT5	<p>Players with good to normal function of trunk muscles. Sufficient activity of the pelvic-leg muscles giving pelvic anchorage and a bigger surface of the sitting support.</p> <p>Ie. Spinal cord injury L1-2 included, amputation, any other impairment fitting this functional profile.</p>

Athletes with Physical Impairment (Standing Classes)	
TT6	<p>Severe impairments of the legs and arms.</p> <p>Players who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – limitations to movement of at least one arm and leg (such as limb loss/deficiency, joint stiffness or weakness) – cerebral palsy/brain injury or similar that affects one side of their body or all four limbs – Double above knee amputees or equivalent – Players who use their mouth to hold the racquet
TT7	<p>Very severe impairments of the legs (poor static and dynamic balance); or severe impairments of playing arm; or moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia with playing arm included; severe CO\P hemiplegia or diplegia with good playing arm; or combination of arms and legs impairments less severe than in class 6.</p> <p>Players who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weakness or stiffness in both legs with inability to hop – Limb deficiency above the knee in one leg – Limb deficiency above the elbow of non-playing arm – Limb loss around the elbow in their playing arm
TT8	<p>Moderate impairments of the legs; or moderate impairments of playing arm; or moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia with good playing arm; or any impairment with comparable functional profile.</p> <p>Players who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Limb loss, weakness or stiffness in one leg arm that make it largely non-functional – Weakness or stiffness in both legs with some difficulty moving side to side at speed – Limb loss above the wrist in playing arm – Cerebral palsy, brain injury or equivalent in two limbs, where playing arm is unaffected.
TT9	<p>Mild impairments of the leg(s); or mild impairments of playing arm; or severe impairments of non-playing arm; or mild CP with hemiparesis or monoplegia; or any impairment with comparable functional profile.</p> <p>Players who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stiffness or weakness in 1 to 2 joints in one or both legs. – Limb loss below the knee in one leg – Limb loss, weakness or stiffness in the wrist or hand of playing arm – Limb loss, weakness or stiffness in non-playing arm that make it largely non-functional
TT10	<p>For an athlete to be allocated in class 10, he or she must fulfill at least one of the minimal impairment criteria.</p> <p>Players who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – stiffness or weakness in one joint of the body – amputation of the foot or fingers – where impairment impacts on racquet grip, reach or placement of shot; or player balance and rotation at speed.

Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment	
TT11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Must have 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.

How do I get classified?

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

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

Where do I find out further Information?

National	Table Tennis Australia E: ceo@tabletennis.org.au P: +61 7 3369 4999 
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500 
International	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) 