



AUSTRALIAN  
PARALYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# Classification

# Athletes with a Physical Impairment

## Classification Information Sheet

### Which Paralympic sports may I compete in?

Summer Paralympic Sports		Winter Paralympic Sports
Archery*	Athletics	Alpine Skiing
Badminton	Boccia	Ice Sledge Hockey*
Cycling	Equestrian	Nordic Skiing*
Football 7-a-side	Paracanoe	Para Snowboard
Paratriathlon	Powerlifting	Wheelchair Curling*
Rowing	Sailing	
Shooting	Sitting Volleyball*	
Swimming	Table Tennis	
Taekwondo	Wheelchair Basketball	
Wheelchair Fencing*	Wheelchair Rugby	
Wheelchair Tennis		

*\*Currently limited or no programs offered in Australia*

### Who is eligible as an athlete with a physical impairment?

Athletes must have at least one of the impairments:

- Limb loss or limb deficiency
- Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis or Dystonia
- Short Stature
- Muscle weakness
- Joint movement restrictions
- Limb length differences

Impairment Group	Examples of Common conditions	Minimal Disability Guide
Limb loss or deficiency	Total or partial absence of bones or joints of the arms, legs or pelvic region as a result of condition from birth, trauma or illness.	Generally, through the hand or wrist or the foot or ankle depending on each sports rules.
Muscle weakness	Spinal cord injury, spina bifida, transverse myelitis, sacral agenesis, spinal tumours, nerve damage, Erbs palsy, foot drop, Muscular dystrophies or other conditions causing muscle weakness	The requirements are sport specific, however generally the weakness in the legs, trunk, and / or arms, is tested using a 5 point scale. Athletes generally must lose at least 10-20 points of power to be eligible for Paralympic Sport.
Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis or Dystonia	Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, stroke, brain tumour, multiple sclerosis, cerebellar ataxia, hereditary spastic paraparesis or any other condition where spasticity, ataxia, dystonia or athetosis are present	The requirements are sport specific, however generally, spasticity, ataxia or athetosis or dystonia must be clinically measureable in at least one joint in one arm or leg



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Short Stature	Achondroplasia, spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia or similar conditions that impact on an athlete's adult height.	The height for athletes with short stature is sports specific, with a maximum height of 145cm.
Joint movement restrictions	Arthrogyrosis, Talipes Equinovarus, Joint fusions or similar conditions that impact on joint movement.	The restriction is sports specific, as a guide partial or full fusion of one ankle or wrist.
Leg length difference	A difference in the length of an athlete's legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma.	The length is sports specific, as a guide, this is greater than 7cm in the leg.

### When do I need a classification?

If you want to compete in sport as an athlete with a disability, you must undergo a sports specific classification assessment and hold a particular level of classification. As a general guide you should undergo a classification assessment prior to regional, state or national level championships.

Athletes who are selected to represent Australia at international level competition will be required to attend international classification.

### Who conducts a classification for Paralympic Sports?

Classification is conducted by certified classifiers. These are specialised officials (such as doctors, physiotherapists, coaches, biomechanists) certified by the APC to conduct activities in Australia. Only these classifiers are able to determine whether an athlete meets the minimal disability criteria and which class they compete in.

### How do I get classified?

Each sport has specific processes for athletes to arrange a classification.

**National Classification:** For athletes who attend a face to face classification with a certified APC Classifier. You can request a classification using the [Get classified](#) form on the Australian Paralympic Committee website or the National Federation for your selected sport.

**Remote provisional classification:** For athletes who are unable to attend a face to face classification due to geographical location. You can request a classification using the [Get classified](#) form on the Australian Paralympic Committee website or the National Federation for your selected sport.



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### Links and Resources

Organisation	Website and contact details
Australian Paralympic Committee	<a href="http://www.paralympic.org.au">www.paralympic.org.au</a> + 61 2 9704 0500 <a href="mailto:classification@paralympic.org.au">classification@paralympic.org.au</a>
National Federations (for the sports)	Visit the sports pages on <a href="http://www.paralympic.org.au">www.paralympic.org.au</a> for links to each National Federation

The information provided in this document is based on international rules for sports and classification.