

Classification Information Sheet

Wheelchair Rugby



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Wheelchair Rugby. 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 ([IWRF](#)).

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the IWRF 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 Wheelchair Rugby?

Impairment	Examples of health conditions
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency Amputation from trauma, cancer, Limb deficiency 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 tumor, 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

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. For more information page numbers of the [IWRF Classification rules](#) are indicated in brackets.

Impairment		Minimal Impairment – GUIDE ONLY
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Limb deficiency or limb loss in both legs AND at least 1 arm, where one hand has restrictions that limits finger and thumb function. (Page 96)
	Loss of muscle strength	Loss of muscle strength in both hips AND at least 1 arm, where one hand has weakness that limits finger and thumb function. (Page 96)
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia), Ataxia and Athetosis impacting in at least three limbs. (Page 12)
	Joint movement restrictions	Joint movement restrictions in both hips AND at least 1 arm, where one hand has restrictions that limits finger and thumb function. (Page 96)

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)
0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Court role: Blocker – Physical skills: No trunk or leg movement; limited shoulder; elbow and hand movement - chest strapping and significant tilting on chair assists with balance – Chair Skills: Elbows out to side, short pushing distance; slow speed; requires one hand on the chair at all times for balance; stops chair to change direction – Passing: Two-handed scoop pass (short range) or underhand volleyball pass (long range) – Catching: Traps ball directly on lap – Ball defence: Limited ability to defend ball from opponents

1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Blocker/in-bounder - Physical skills: No trunk or leg movement; limited shoulder; elbow or hand movement - Chair skills: can turn in all directions without stopping; faster than 0.5 player - Passing: Two-handed chest pass (short) or underhand volleyball pass (long range) - Catching: Catches with forearm or wrist - Ball defence: Limited ability to defend ball from opponents
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Blocker/ball handler - Physical skills: Some shoulder, elbow and wrist strength; weakness in trunk and legs - Chair skills: Good pushing skills - Passing: Chest pass; with limited wrist or finger use for control - Catching: Catches with forearm or wrist - Ball defence: Limited ability to defend ball from opponents
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Ball handler - Physical skills: Strong shoulders, some weakness in wrist and fingers - Chair skills: Good speed on court for stopping, starting and turning - Passing: Chest pass with control - Catching: Can use wrists to catch; limited use of fingers in catch - Ball defence: Some ability to defend ball from opponents
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Ball handler and playmaker - Physical skills: Strong shoulder, elbows and wrists; finger and trunk weakness - Chair skills: Good speed on court for stopping, starting, turning; can use trunk and fingers to assist in more precise chair skills - Passing: Able to perform one-handed pass overhead; able to dribble ball - Catching: Two-handed catch - Ball defence: Good ability to defend ball from opponents
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Ball handler and fast playmaker - Physical skills: Good shoulder, arm and wrist strength; some trunk weakness - Chair skills: Good control of chair in all directions - Passing: Can dribble and pass with one hand - Catching: Good controlled catch with one or two hands - Ball defence: Protects ball well against opponents
3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court role: Major ball handler and primary playmaker - Physical skills: Good shoulder, arm and wrist strength, has some to full trunk movement - Chair skills: Excellent control of chair in all directions and at speed, uses trunk to weave in and out of play - Passing: excellent ball control, can dribble and pass with one hand - Catching: Excellent controlled catch with one or two hands - Ball defence: Protects ball well against opponents

How do I get classified?

Find out more about seeking a [Wheelchair Rugby Classification](#).

Where do I find out further Information?

National	Wheelchair Rugby Australia P: +61 2 8736 1220	 WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	 Paralympics Australia 
International	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)	 IWRF <i>International Wheelchair Rugby Federation</i>