

Classification Information Sheet

Wheelchair Tennis



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Wheelchair Tennis. 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 (ITF).

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the ITF 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 Tennis?

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
	Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length

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

Impairment		Minimal Impairment – GUIDE ONLY
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Leg: A third of the foot amputation (metatarsophalangeal). (page 5)
	Loss of muscle strength	Leg: Loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle. (Page 5)
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia), Ataxia (Incoordination) or Athetosis (involuntary movement) in at least one leg. (Page 5)
	Joint movement restrictions	Leg: Joint movement restriction or joint replacement in one hip, knee or ankle. (Page 5)
	Leg length difference	Significant difference between leg lengths. (Page 5)

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)
Open	<p>Players with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spinal cord injury at the S1 level or above, associated with loss of movement; – Joint fusion and/or joint replacement of the hip, knee or upper ankle joints; – Amputation of any part of the leg above the metatarsophalangeal joint of the foot; – A player with a disability in one or both legs equivalent to the above
Quad	<p>Players with a permanent physical disability that results in a substantial loss of movement in one or both of their legs along with one or both of their arms. Players in the quad class must meet one of the following minimum eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A spinal cord injury at the C8 level or above, with associated loss of movement – Arm amputation, or dysmelia; – Arm myopathy or muscular dystrophy, or; – A player with functional disabilities in one or both upper extremities equivalent to the above

How do I get classified?

Find out more about seeking a [Wheelchair Tennis classification](#).

How do I find out further Information?

National	Tennis Australia E: tareception@tennis.com.au P: +61 3 9914 4000	
	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	International Tennis Federation (ITF)	