

Classification Information Sheet - Vision Impairment



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for athletes who are blind or have a vision impairment. The classification of athletes in sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the classification rules set by the International Paralympic Committee, International Blind Sporting Federation (IBSA) and the International Federation for the particular sport.

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete 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.

What is the eligible impairment criteria?

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
Vision Impairment	Reduced or no vision in both eyes caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– impairment of the eye structure;– impairment of the optic nerve or pathways;– impairment of the visual cortex of the brain.

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 (MIC).

Impairment	Minimum Impairment- GUIDE ONLY
Vision Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Visual acuity in both eyes with best corrected vision of less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or– Visual field restriction of less than 40 degrees diameter in both eyes with best corrected vision.

Please Note – Sport specific MIC exists for the sport of Para-Shooting. Please go to the Para-Shooting classification info page ([here](#)) for further information.

What are the Paralympic classes for Vision Impairments?

The list below is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal para sport classification.

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction. Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60 with best corrected vision.
B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to recognise objects up to a distance of 2 metres. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.5 to 2.60 (below 2/60) with best corrected vision; and/or Visual field of less than ten (10) degrees diameter.
B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can recognise contours between 2 and 6 metres away. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.40 – 1.0 (2/60 – 6/60) with best corrected vision; and/or Visual field of more than ten (10) degrees and less than forty (40) degrees diameter.

Sport Specific Classes

Sport	B Class	Sport Specific Class
Alpine and Nordic Skiing	B1	B1
	B2	B2
	B3	B3
Archery	B1	VI 1 - athletes wear blindfolds (Non-paralympic event)
	B2 - B3	VI 2 / VI 3 – athletes compete in one class (Non-paralympic event)
Athletics	B1	T/F 11 – athletes must use a guide
	B2	T/F 12 – athletes may elect to use a guide
	B3	T/F 13 – athletes are NOT eligible for a guide
Cycling	B1 - B3	B (Tandem)
Equestrian	B1	Grade IV
	B2	Grade V
Football 5-a-side	B1	All players are required to wear a blindfold. The goalkeeper is a sighted player.
Goalball	B1 - B3	All players are required to wear a blindfold.
Judo	B1 - B3	B1- B3 (combined)
Rowing	B1 - B3	PR3 - All vision impaired rowers are required to wear a blindfold.
Shooting	B1 - B3	SHVI – Sport specific classification process (Non-paralympic event)
Swimming	B1	S 11 - All swimmers are required to have blackened goggles & tapper.
	B2	S 12 - Swimmers may elect to use a tapper.
	B3	S 13
Taekwondo	B1 – B3	P11 - P13 (Non-paralympic event)
Triathlon	B1 - B3	PTVI

How do I get classified?

Classification for Vision Impairment in Australia is organised through the [Paralympics Australia](#).

National VI Classification Masterlist (Coming Soon)

Where do I find out further Information?

Provisional & National	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	
International	National Federation for your specific sport	