

## Wheelchair Fencing Information Sheet

### About the Sport

Wheelchair fencing was one of the foundation sports on the Paralympic program in Rome, Italy, in 1960. Male and female compete in individual and team events (with three fencers to a team), including foil, épée and sabre.

Athletes compete in wheelchairs that are fastened to the floor. Chairs allow the fencers freedom of movement and the activity is as fast-paced as in fencing competitions for athletes without impairments.

### Who can compete?

Wheelchair Fencing is open to athletes with a physical impairment. Athletes are required to submit medical reports and meet the minimum impairment criteria in order to compete.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Loss of limbs	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth	Loss of one foot or shortened limb of similar length.
Muscle weakness/ Impaired muscle power	Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or other spinal condition	Loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle
Co-ordination impairments - Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis	Impairments from neurological conditions such as acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis that affect co-ordination and smoothness of movement and balance.	Co-ordination or movement difficulties in at least one leg
Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length due to a deficiency at birth or trauma.	The difference must be at least 7cm between both legs
Restricted joint movement/ Impaired passive range	Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.	Joint movement restriction in at least one hip, knee or ankle.

## Para-Fencing Sport Classes

Category	Description (Guide Only)
A	Fencers who have impairments in one or both legs and have good control of their trunk and fencing arm. Fencers are able to lunge forwards quickly and forcefully in attack and lean backwards in defence with excellent control and agility.
B	Fencer who have impairments in their legs and trunk and may have mild impairments in their fencing arm.
C	Fencers who have impairments in their arms, torso and legs. Fencers have a moderate impairment in their fencing arm.
Not Eligible (NE)	Athlete does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para-sport classes, but may still be able to compete. Contact Australian Fencing Federation for more information.

### Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

### Australian Fencing Federation

W: [www.fencing.org.au](http://www.fencing.org.au)

E: [operations@fencing.org.au](mailto:operations@fencing.org.au)

**Note:** The classification information provided is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in accordance with the rules of the sport. Not all classes may have events at the Paralympic Games.