

Paralympics Australia

Para-sport Equipment Fund Guidelines

The purpose of the Para-sport Equipment Fund is to assist in addressing the additional costs associated with sport participation in Para-sport pathways for Para-athletes. Specifically, the Fund will address the cost of Para-sport equipment, which often requires customisation and has been identified as a significant barrier on the Para-sport pathway at all levels.

The Fund is administered by Paralympics Australia and promoted to all people with an impairment who are currently or interested in participating in a Para-sport and likely to be eligible for Paralympic sport.

Applicants will be required to address pre-determined selection criteria within their application.

Individual Applicants

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the **Individual** funding, athletes must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident living in Australia.
- Athletes Categorised by their Sport as Podium, Podium Ready or Podium Potential athletes are not eligible to apply for funding.
- Athletes categorised by their Sport as Developing or Emerging or athletes who are not Categorised are eligible to apply for funding.
- Have an eligible impairment according to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) [Standard of Eligible Impairments](#). These are:
 - Ataxia
 - Athetosis
 - Hypertonia
 - Impaired muscle power
 - Impaired passive range of movement
 - Intellectual impairment
 - Leg length difference
 - Limb deficiency
 - Short stature
 - Vision impairment
- Use the equipment for sport/s currently contested on the Paralympic Games Program. For more information click [here](#).
- Be able to provide storage and maintenance for the equipment.

- Provide the contact details of a referee from a state or national sporting organisation, club coach or school leader to verify the **Eligible Impairment** and equipment need.
- Provide a quote from a registered business for the requested equipment, for items including but not limited to; Sports Wheelchairs, Throwing Frames, Handcycles, Prosthetics etc.
- Agree to be contacted by Paralympics Australia's and or/other Para-sport Equipment Fund funding partners communications divisions for the purpose of developing media and social media content to promote the Fund.
- Submit a report to Paralympics Australia when requested to do so.

Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against a range of criteria including but not limited to;

- Barrier to participation without access to equipment.
- Age of applicant with consideration to the length of time they have had their impairment.
- Demonstrated prior engagement with the Para-sport/s which the equipment is requested.
- Equipment need and perceived benefit against cost of request.
- Options and opportunity to source equipment via alternative means.
- Quality of equipment required to participate within Para-sport/s.
- Impact of use of equipment within community (social outcomes)

Paralympics Australia will work in collaboration with the applicant or directly with businesses to purchase and supply approved equipment to the applicant.

Program Applicants

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the **Program** funding, organisations must:

- Provide the equipment to programs consisting of Australian citizens or permanent residents living in Australia.
- Programs applying for Athletes Categorised by their Sport as Podium, Podium Ready or Podium Potential athletes are not eligible to apply for funding.
- Programs for Athletes Categorised as Developing or Emerging or are not Categorised are eligible to apply for funding.
- Provide the equipment for programs consisting of participants with an eligible impairment according to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) **Standard of Eligible Impairments**. These are:
 - Ataxia
 - Athetosis
 - Hypertonia

- Impaired muscle power
- Impaired passive range of movement
- Intellectual impairment
- Leg length difference
- Limb deficiency
- Short stature
- Vision impairment
- Use the equipment for sport/s currently contested on the Paralympic Games Program. For more information click [here](#).
- Be able to provide storage and maintenance for the equipment.
- Provide the contact details of a referee from a state or national sporting organisation, club coach or school leader to verify the **Eligible Impairment** and equipment need.
- Provide a quote from a registered business for the requested equipment, for items including but not limited to; Sports Wheelchairs, Throwing Frames, Handcycles, Prosthetics etc
- Agree to be contacted by Paralympics Australia's and or/other Para-sport Equipment Fund funding partners communications divisions for the purpose of developing media and social media content to promote the Fund.
- Submit a report to Paralympics Australia when requested to do so.

Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the range of criteria including but not limited to;

- Age of participants intended to use the equipment
- Barrier to participation without access to equipment.
- Equipment need and perceived benefit against cost of request.
- Options and opportunity to source equipment via alternative means.
- Quality of equipment required to participate within Para-sport/s.
- Impact of use of equipment within community (social outcomes)

Paralympics Australia will work directly with businesses to purchase and supply the equipment to the applicant. In some cases, equipment will be made available on a loan basis for the duration of its reasonable working life or until such time as it is not in regular use for the purpose for which it was loaned, at which time it will made available to other sport programs by Paralympics Australia.

Examples of Equipment Items

- Boccia – adapted wheelchair, adapted and/or modified seating, balls, ramps
- Football 5-a-side – sport-specific equipment
- Goalball – balls, goals
- Para-alpine skiing – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted sit ski

- Para-archery – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-athletics – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, secured frame, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-badminton – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-biathlon – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment, sport-specific or adapted sit ski
- Para-canoe – adapted and/or modified seating and attachment, prosthetics
- Para-cross country skiing – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted sit ski
- Para-cycling – adapted and/or modified bicycles, handcycle, prosthetics, tandem cycle, tricycle.
- Para-equestrian – compensating aids, prosthetics
- Para-ice hockey – sport-specific equipment
- Para-judo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-powerlifting – specialised bench
- Para-rowing – adapted and/or modified seating and attachments to boats, prosthetics
- Para-shooting – adapted and/or modified seating, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-snowboard – adapted and/or modified equipment, prosthetics
- Para-table tennis – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-taekwondo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-triathlon – adapted and/or modified seating, handcycle, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair, tandem cycle
- Sitting volleyball – balls, net
- Wheelchair basketball – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair curling – modified seating, pole, sport-specific equipment, stones
- Wheelchair fencing – adapted and/or modified seating, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair rugby – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair tennis – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair

If you have any questions on your eligibility, please email Paralympics Australia at equipment@paralympic.org.au

Whilst the program will not exclusively prioritise Participation level Athletes and Programs over that of High-Performance Athletes & Programs, the priority of the program is to provide support for participation outcomes. As noted above, Athletes who are Categorised as Podium, Podium Ready or Podium Potential by their Sport are not eligible to apply for funding. The same applies for Program applications.

Each application will be viewed independently, and Paralympics Australia reserves the right to support or not support any application at their discretion.

How to Apply

1. Carefully read the funding program guidelines to determine whether you meet the eligibility criteria.
2. Complete the application on the Paralympics Australia website in full and submit prior to the closing date of the respective funding round.

The Selection Process

Step 1:

Paralympics Australia will conduct a preliminary assessment of applications received to check that the applicant is eligible to apply, and the application has been completed in full and all information has been provided. Incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible. Nominated referees may also be contacted at this time.

Step 2:

Each application will be reviewed by a moderating panel appointed by Paralympics Australia. All eligible applications will be considered using the following principles to prioritise applications, in addition to the criteria noted above:

- participation level athletes and programs will be prioritised over performance related requests by athletes and/or programs.
- additional items or upgrading of items for performance purposes may be approved (ie carbon wheels), however may be at the cost of the applicant.
- whether the applicant has applied for or received any funding or sponsorship for similar item/s in the past three years, including through the NDIS.
- whether the Fund is the only solution for equipment provision.
- whether the applicant has an identified Para-sport pathway through involvement with a club, coach, school or other program.
- the age of the applicant/program and where they sit in the Para-sport pathway.
- whether the applicant has capability to store and maintain the equipment.

The equipment requested will be closely scrutinized by the moderating panel to ensure it is appropriate to the age and performance level of the participants.

Paralympics Australia reserves the right to offer equipment solutions that differ from the requested item/s at the full discretion of Paralympics Australia.

Step 3:

All applications (including unsuccessful applications) will be notified via e-mail as to the outcome of the application.

All application approvals are at the absolute discretion of Paralympics Australia and there is no appeal process for unsuccessful applicants. However, unsuccessful applicants may have their application carried forward (if eligible) or apply in future funding rounds should this be an option.

Paralympics Australia's will follow up with successful applicants to advise of the process to acquire approved equipment.