

## Para-Ice Hockey Information Sheet

### About the Sport

Since its debut on the Paralympic Programme at the Lillehammer 1994 Winter Paralympics, Para-Ice Hockey has quickly become one of the largest attractions for spectators at the Winter Paralympics. It is fast paced, highly physical and played by male and female athletes with a physical impairment in the lower part of the body.

Para-Ice Hockey follows the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) with a few modifications. Instead of skates, players use two-blade sledges that allow the puck to pass beneath. Players use two sticks, which have a spike-end for pushing and a blade-end for shooting.

### Who can compete?

Para-Ice Hockey 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.

<b>Eligible impairments</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Minimum Impairment Criteria</b>
Loss of limbs	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.	<b>Leg:</b> Loss of one leg through the ankle 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.	<b>Leg:</b> Loss of strength in hip, knee or ankle

<b>Eligible impairments</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Minimum Impairment Criteria</b>
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.	Moderate co-ordination or movement difficulties in the 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.	Severe joint movement restriction in one ankle or knee.
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

## **Para-Ice Hockey Sport Classes**

In Para Ice Hockey there is only one sport class. Athletes must have an impairment in the lower part of their body that would prevent them from playing in standing ice hockey.

<b>Sport Class</b>	<b>Description (Guide Only)</b>
Eligible (E)	Meets the minimum impairment for the sport.
Not Eligible (NE)	Does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para-sport classes, but may still be able to compete. Contact Snow Australia for more information.



## **Find out more**

To get involved or for more information contact:

**[Ice Hockey Australia](#)**

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

**E: [office@iha.org.au](mailto:office@iha.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.