

Classification Information Sheet

PARA-SWIMMING

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para-Swimming. 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 [IPC Swimming](#).

Which Paralympic impairment groups compete in Para-Swimming?

Impairment		Examples of health conditions
Intellectual Impairment		
Vision Impairment		Albinism, Retinitis Pigmentosa, macular or rod cone dystrophy
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.
	Short Stature	Achondroplasia and similar conditions
	Joint movement restrictions	Arthrogryposis, Talipes Equinovarus, joint fusions
	Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length

What is the Minimal Disability Criteria?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's disability results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimal disability criteria. For more information page numbers of the [IPC Swimming Classification rules](#) are indicated in brackets.

Impairment		Minimal Disability – GUIDE ONLY
Intellectual Impairment		IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, prior to 18 years. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. (Pg 67)
Vision Impairment		Visual acuity less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.0); or visual field is less than 20 degrees radius in both eyes with best corrected vision. (Pg 62)
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Leg: Loss of at least half of one foot or more than ¾ loss on both feet (pg 47) Arm:- one arm - loss of at least 2/3 of palm in one hand OR shortened arm of similar length (pg 46) - both arms - complete loss of four fingers on both hands (pg 47)

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Loss of muscle strength	Leg-Loss of strength in a hip, knee, ankle or foot that impacts on swimming (pg 40)
Loss of muscle strength	Arm- Loss of strength in a shoulder, elbow, wrist or hand that impacts on swimming (pg 40)
Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia) in at least two joints. Ataxia/athetosis-unsteadiness, inco-ordination or involuntary movements that affects co-ordination tests
Short Stature	Adult standing height less than or equal to 137cm (males)/130cm (females) (pg 56)
Joint movement restrictions	Joint movement restriction in one major joint that impacts on swimming (pg 40)
Leg length difference	The difference between legs should be at least 20cm. (pg 49)

How do I get classified?

1. Apply to be classified online via the [Get Classified form](#).
- OR
2. Contact your [State Swimming Organisation](#)

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.

The prefix for each class identifies the stroke;

- S** denotes the class for freestyle, backstroke and butterfly
- SB** denotes the class for breaststroke
- SM** denotes the class for individual medley

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
Swimmers with a physical impairment	
S1 SB1 SM1	Swimmers who have significant movement difficulties in arms, legs and trunk. Swimmers use a wheelchair for everyday mobility. Swimmers start in the water for all strokes, use assistance for water exit and entry and complete all strokes on their back.
S2 SB1 SM2	Swimmers have significant movement difficulties in arms, legs and trunk, but with more propulsive ability in arms or legs than S1 swimmers. Swimmers use water starts and assistance with water entry.
S3 SB2 SM3	Swimmers with good shoulder movement, some elbow and hand movement, with no use of their legs or trunk; swimmers with significant limb loss in all four limbs. Swimmers use water starts and assistance in the water.
S4 SB3 SM4	Swimmers with good use of arms and some hand weakness with no use of their trunk or legs; swimmers with significant limb loss to three or four limbs. Swimmers usually start in the water.

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S5 SB4 SM5	Swimmers with good use of arms, but no trunk and leg movement; swimmers with some limb loss in three or four limbs. Some swimmers may start in the water.
S6 SB5 SM6	Swimmers with short stature; swimmers with good arms, some trunk and no leg movement; swimmers with significant impairment down one side of their body (limb loss, movement difficulties).
S7 SB6 SM7	Swimmers with good arms, trunk and some leg movement; swimmers with co-ordination weakness or limb loss down one side of the body.
S8 SB7 SM8	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with good hip and some leg movement; swimmers with limb loss of two limbs; swimmers without the use of one arm. Swimmers use regular starts, strokes and turns.
S9 SB8 SM9	Swimmers with weakness, limb loss or movement difficulties in one arm or leg only; swimmers with slight co-ordination difficulties. Swimmers use regular starts, strokes and turns.
S10 SB9 SM10	Swimmers with very minimal impairment that affects one joint, usually their foot or hand. Starts, turns and strokes are smooth and fluid.
Swimmers with a Vision Impairment	
S11	Athletes who have no sight in both eyes. All swimmers wear blacked out goggles and use a tapper as they approach the end of the pool
S12	Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far they can see (visual acuity). Athletes can see objects up to 2 meters away, what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres away (2/60 vision); or • How wide they can see (visual field). Athletes have tunnel vision less than 5 degrees radius.
S13	Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far they can see (visual acuity). Athletes can see objects up to 6 meters away, what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres away (6/60 vision); Or • How wide they can see (visual field). Athletes have tunnel vision less than 20 degrees radius.
Swimmers with an Intellectual Disability	
S14	Swimmers with IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, acquired prior to 18 years. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.

Further Information

National	Swimming Australia E: inclusion@swimming.org.au P: +61 26219 5600	Australian Paralympic Committee E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500
International	IPC Swimming	