



Little Athletics SA Classification Guidelines for Athletes with a Disability

Classification is crucial to the integrity and fairness of Para-Sport competition. It determines which athletes are eligible to compete and the structure for how they are categorised for events. The aim of classification is to group together athletes with similar impairments. It is like grouping athletes by age and gender.

All athletes with a disability must have received at least a provisional classification from an approved organisation if they want to compete in disability events conducted at Little Athletics Championship events (this does not include Centre competition where we promote participation).

Classification in athletics has seven areas or categories, and each had different requirements. If athlete do not fall into one of the following categories, then they may not be able to be classified. If an athlete cannot be classified, they are ineligible to compete in disability events and must therefore compete in the able-bodies events.

<p>Hearing Impaired (T/F 01) <i>Deaf Sports Australia</i> – www.deafsports.org.au or info@deafsports.org.au or 03 9473 1191</p>
<p>Visually Impaired (T/F 11-13) <i>Australian Paralympic Committee</i> – https://www.paralympic.org.au/vi-request-for-classification/ or 02 9704 0500</p>
<p>Intellectual Impairment (T/F 20 & T/F21) <i>Sport Inclusion Australia</i> – www.sportinclusionaustralia.org.au or mail@sportinclusionaustralia.org.au</p>
<p>Physical Impairment (T31-638, T40-47, T51-54, T61-64, F31-38, F40-46, F51-57, F61/64) <i>Athletics Australia</i> – classification@athletics.org.au</p>
<p>Transplant Impairment (T/F 60) – A person who has received a kidney, heart, heart & lung, liver or bone marrow transplant. <i>Transplant Australia</i> – https://transplant.org.au/multi-class-sports/</p>

Classification FAQs

What is the role of a classifier?

Classifiers are sports officials with a medical or sport science background who have completed the required training and certification as determined by the International and National Federation. They assess athletes to determine their eligibility for para-athletics competitions and provide them with a sport class and sport class status at the conclusion of the assessment.

What is the minimum age for classification?

The minimum age for classification is different for each sport. In Australia, starting ages will change depending on the sport. Sports such as swimming and athletics allow athletes to compete from **8yrs** of age onwards, classified occurs from this age.

Do I need to be classified more than once in a sport?

This will depend on your impairment and level of classification. Most athletes will be classified more than once during their sporting career. Classifiers will decide whether an athlete need to be reviewed during the classification process. Common reasons for attending classification more than once include:

- You may be allocated a review date and will need to be reviewed in a certain year or event.
- Your age
- You may be requested to attend classification at a major championships (such as a national or international championships)
- You have a deteriorating condition or your impairment has changed
- The classification rules for the sport change and you need to be reviewed

I have changed since I was last classified – what do I do?

If your medical condition has changed or you have had medical intervention that may impact upon your classification, you are required to advise your sport of these changes. This may result in a review of your classification. Any requests need to be accompanied by medical documentation. Contact your sport for more information.

I have a classification in one sport and want to compete in another, do I need to get classified again?

Each sport has a different classification process, so you will need to be classified by

recognised classifiers for the sport and according to the classification rules for the sport. It is possible that an athlete may meet the criteria in one sport, but may not meet the criteria in another sport.

There seems to be a broad range of disabilities in my class. Is this fair?

Athletes are matched as fairly as possible into a class with others who have a similar level of impairment. As no two athletes are the same, within each class there may be differences between athletes.

Do I need a copy of my classification?

Athletes should receive a copy of their classification paperwork which shows their sport class and sport class status. Athletes must keep a copy of this paperwork for future reference. Athletics Australia also have a Masterlist which is a database of all classified athletes with their classification. This is available for viewing on the Athletics Australia website.

Do I need to prove that I have been classified when I enter into a competition?

All athletes who have been through a classification process will have their records kept on file and classification details will be entered into the Athletics Australia Classification Masterlist. Competition organisers can confirm your classification by referring to the Masterlist.

How long is my classification valid for?

Every time an athlete is classified their classification is given a status. The following outcomes may occur:

- An athlete is allocated a National Review (NR) status, with no date for review, which means they will be required to attend classification again at the next competition where classification can be held, and it is an entry requirement to hold a valid classification.
- An athlete is allocated a fixed review year e.g., NR 2025, which means they will not be able to attend classification until the year that is allocated. Once the review year arrives, the classification will revert to NR status and the above NR status conditions apply.
- An athlete is allocated a National Confirmed (NC) status, which means the athlete will not be classified again for any National competitions.

Regardless of what status is allocated an athlete may be classified again if:

- The classification rules change for athletics

- An athlete's condition has changed since their last classification to the extent that they most likely do not fit his/her current athletics class due to medical interventions, change in condition (progressive/fluctuating) or skeletal maturity (growth) changes. Refer to FAQ "I have changed since I was last classified – What do I do?"
- As an outcome of protest or appeal

I've been to a classification assessment and have been told I'm not eligible for a sport – what does this mean?

There are rules surrounding ineligibility for each sport/competition. If you have been told you are ineligible, this means that that you do not meet the minimal disability criteria for that sport as per classification rules. You will not be able to compete in Paraspport events/competitions as an athlete with a disability. Where an opportunity exists, you may be able to attend a second evaluation with alternative certified classifiers at an equal or higher level

I do not agree with the class I've been allocated – what can I do?

Athletes have a right to lodge a disagreement or protest their classification. You should contact Athletics Australia. Also refer to the APC Classification policy.

I do not agree with the way my classification was conducted – what can I do?

Athletes have a right to lodge a disagreement or protest their classification. You should contact Athletics Australia. Also refer to the APC classification policy.