

The Para-Athletics Classification System

In sport, classification exists so that athletes compete in fair and equal competition. Most sports have simple classification systems that group athletes according to age, gender or weight. In Paralympic Sport, the wide range of sports and disabilities create unique classification systems. Paralympic classification groups athletes according to how their disability impacts on their sport. Athletes compete against others with similar disabilities, so that the athletes who succeed do so on the basis of athletic performance. In Australia, classification is a free service that is available to any athlete that wishes to compete against others with a similar disability.

Classification is not a requirement for general participation in athletics and all athletes are also encouraged to participate and compete in mainstream opportunities where appropriate.

Types of Classification in Australia

There are a range of disability groups eligible to compete within the Australian athletics system as an athlete with a disability. These disability groups are separated into varying classifications to ensure fair competition. The classification groups are as follows:

- T/F 01 Hearing impairment (Deaf Sport classes)
- T/F 11-13 Visual impairment (Paralympic Classes)
- T/F 20 Intellectual impairment (Paralympic Classes)
- T/F 31-34 Athletes with hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis who compete sitting (Paralympic Classes)
- T/F 35-38 Athletes with hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis who compete standing (Paralympic Classes)
- Cerebral Palsy & Acquired Brain Injury (Paralympic Classes)
- T/F 40-41 Athletes with Short Stature (Paralympic Classes)
- T/ 42-46 & T47 Athletes with limb deficiency, muscle weakness or joint restrictions who compete standing (Paralympic Classes)
- T 51-54 Wheelchair (Track Events) (Paralympic Classes)
- F 51-58 Wheelchair (Field Events) (Paralympic Classes)
- T/F 60 Transplant Recipients (Transplant Sport classes)

Each disability group has a set of minimal disability criteria that an athlete must meet in order to be eligible to compete as an athlete with a disability. Athletes must undergo specific Athlete Evaluation or Eligibility processes to obtain a classification. Evaluation and Eligibility processes are outlined in the [Athletics Australia Classification Policy and Procedures](#).

Eligible Athletes are able to receive a Classification for both track and field. A prefix indicates which discipline the classification applies to. The prefix 'T' indicates the classification for Track events. The prefix 'F' indicates the classification for Field events.

Levels of Classification

There are three levels of classification;

Provisional

The Provisional level classification will allow an athlete to compete at club and regional level competitions

National

The National level classification is required for any para-athlete wishing to compete at a state or national level event in Australia.

International

Athletes who are wishing to represent Australia overseas or at any international event will require an international level classification.

The Classification Masterlist

The National Classification Master List is the official record of Australian classified athletes in athletics. This master list is managed by Athletics Australia in agreement with classification system partners. Certain classification information is made public to assist athletes, coaches and meet organisers (e.g. athletes name, state, date of birth, classification and classification status).

View the [Athletics Classification Master List](#).

Becoming Classified for Para-Athletics in Australia

For more information regarding classification and how to become classified for athletics in Australia, please contact the National Disability Sport Partner who is responsible for your particular classification group;

Physical Impairment - Athletics Australia

Athletics Australia is the peak sports body for para-athletics in Australia, supporting classification, development and high performance for all para-athletes. Athletics Australia is also the national body responsible for all Physical Impairment Classifications. **(classifications T/F31 – T/F58)**

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Visual impairment - Australian Paralympic Committee

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) is the national body for Visual Impairment Classification. **(Classifications T/F11 – T/F13)**

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Intellectual Impairment - AUSRAPID

AUSRAPID is a national organisation established to increase the sporting and recreational opportunities for all people with an intellectual disability within Australia. AUSRAPID manages the classification eligibility process for athletes with an intellectual disability **(Classifications T/F20)**

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Hearing Impairment - Deaf Sports Australia

Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) is the peak body for deaf sport in Australia. DSA manage deaf specific competitions, promote the participation of people with a hearing impairment in sport and manage eligibility for hearing impaired classification (**Classifications T/F01**)

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Transplant Classification - Transplant Australia

Transplant Australia is a national organisation existing to enrich and celebrate life. Transplant Australia manages the classification eligibility process for transplantees (**Classifications T/F 60**)

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