



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



Athletics Para-
Australia

**PARA-ATHLETICS
CLASSIFICATION IN THE
SCHOOLS SYSTEM**

What is classification?

In sport, classification exists so that athletes compete in fair and equal competition. In Athletics the wide range of disabilities create a unique classification system, this system groups athletes according to how their disability impacts on their performance. In Australia, classification is a free service that is available to any athlete that wishes to compete against others with a disability. Here is a brief overview of classification in Australia.

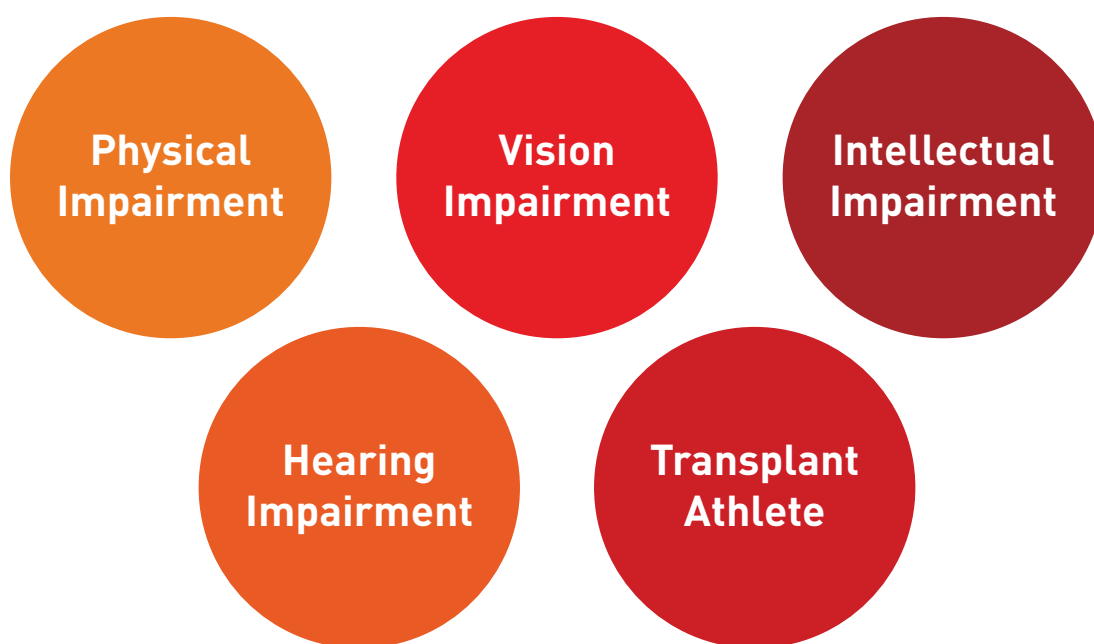
Types of Classification in Australia

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/F 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 51-57 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.

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.



Why do students obtain a Para-athletics classification?

As an athlete can compete in mainstream athletics without a classification, one question often asked is why do I need a classification?

Most sports have simple classification systems that group athletes according to age, gender or weight. In Track and Field classification exists to allow athletes to compete fairly against others with a disability, so that the athletes who succeed do so on the basis of athletic performance and not their level of impairment.

Classification is not a requirement for general participation in athletics. An athlete with a disability who does not have a classification, can still compete in track and field however they will compete as an able bodied athlete. Classification allows an athlete to compete as a Para-athlete, without a classification an athlete with a disability cannot compete in Para-athletics events.

Levels of Classification

There are three levels of classification;

Provisional (only available for physical and vision impairment only)

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

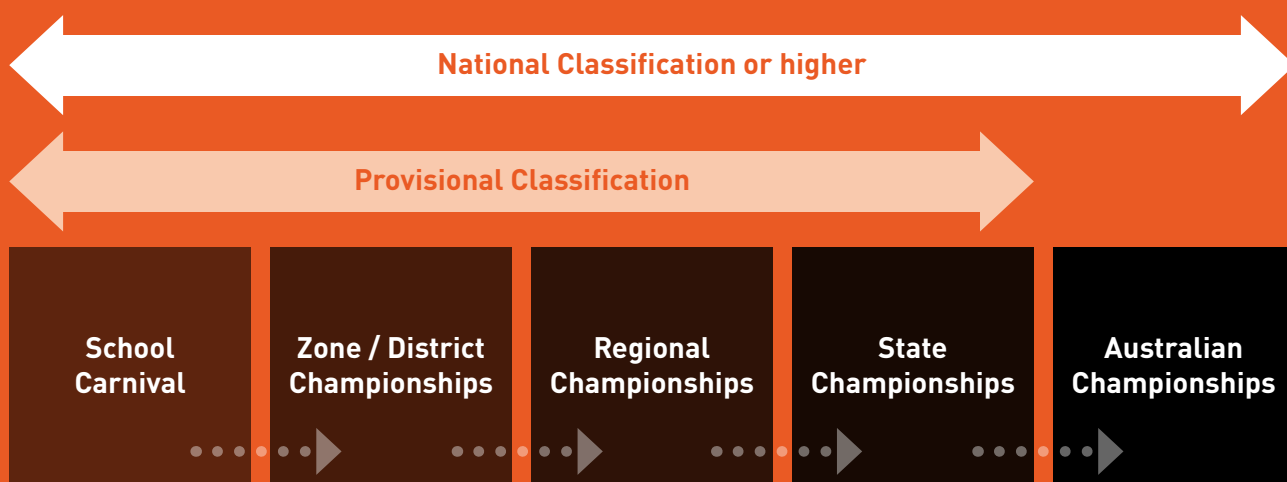
National

The National level classification is required for any para-athlete wishing to compete at a 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.

Classification in the Schools System



How do I check what classification a student has?

School Sport administrators can utilise the National Classification Masterlist available online at the Athletics Australia website to confirm an athletes level of classification.

The national Masterlist for athletics displays all currently classified athletes, their level of classification, and type of classification for both Field and Track events. All athletes classified no matter which impairment group they belong to will appear on the national Masterlist. The national athletics Masterlist is updated on the 1st of each month, if an athlete has been classified prior to the next update, please contact Athletics Australia to confirm the athlete's classification.

How to use to Masterlist as a competition Organiser

The classification Masterlist is an easy and useful tool to use for any competition organiser. As an event organiser, depending on the level of event you are hosting you will be able to check if an athlete entering has the correct level of classification. For example if you are hosting a state or national level event you will be able to tell if an athlete has the correct level of classification, i.e an athlete with a provisional classification will need to update this to a National level classification in order to participate in an Australian Championship.

Why are some athletes highlighted in a different colour?

When athletes are given a classification they are also given a classification status, there are two status' an athlete can receive. These are Review or Confirmed.

An athlete with a review status means that they need to have their classification reviewed at a National Classification event by a certain point in time. An athlete will be given a review year and have until the end of that year to attend their review and cannot attend a classification prior to the start of the review year e.g. An athlete given a review year of 2016 has between the 1st January 2016 and 31st of December 2016 to attend a national level classification. An athlete who is currently due for review before the 31st of December of the current year will appear in Yellow on the Masterlist. An athlete who has missed their review year will be highlighted in RED and must attend the next available classification opportunity.

Alternatively an athlete can be given a confirmed status, which means the athlete will not need to be classified again unless there is a change in their medical condition.

Athletics Classification Masterlist

Australian Athletics Classification Masterlist
Current on 1/4/2015

State	DOB	First Name	Surname	Gender	Track	Classification Level	Status	Review Year	Field	Classification level	Status	Review Year
QLD	12/01/1987	Colin	Abbey	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	24/08/1980	Raymond	Abdy	M					F37	International	Confirmed	
QLD	27/08/1999	Uzun	Aberdein	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
VIC	28/03/1992	Joseph	Accetta	M	T37	National	Review	2017	F37	National	Review	
QLD	10/11/1993	Reed	Achille	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
WA	15/04/1987	Crystal	Adams	F	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
WA	15/04/1987	Crystal	Adams	F	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	29/11/2001	Jordan	Adams	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	27/03/1998	Taylor	Adams	F	T20	National	Review	2016	F20	National	Review	
QLD	13/10/2003	Isaac	Aidit	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
NSW	18/11/2003	Sara	Ahawi	M	T37	National	Review	2017	F37	National	Review	2017
NSW	18/02/2003	Nicholas	Aghus	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	11/02/2001	Lisa	Ahern	F	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	27/06/2001	Nehadi	Ahmed	F	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	18-Oct	Anton	Ahmed	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	04/03/1998	Tiana	Aiono-Tandall	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	05-Aug	Zahed	Ahrens	M					F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	19/10/1995	Tony	Ahse	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
NSW	21/02/2005	Omair	Ahmed	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	17/11/1998	Jamly	Aherns	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	6/11/1992	Nicholas	Aickman	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
WA	4/04/1991	Natalie	Alexander	F					F37	National	Confirmed	
NSW	2/02/1984	Muhammed	Algarawi	M	T47	National	Review	2016	F48	National	Review	
VIC	3/12/1994	Jack	Alkomy	M	T38	National	Review	2016	F38	National	Review	
NSW	3/04/1988	Gordon	Allan	M	T37	National	Review	2016	F37	National	Review	2016
QLD	18/4/1973	Shane	Allan	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
QLD	02/10/2000	Daniel	Allan	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	
NSW	30/04/2001	Jack	Allan	M	T20	National	Confirmed		F20	National	Confirmed	

Click on the image above to view the masterlist

How does a student obtain a classification?

There are various procedures for an athlete to obtain a classification and each impairment group has a National body which is responsible for administering classifications.

Physical Impairment National Body - Athletics Australia

Physical Impairment classifications are conducted by Athletics Australia and its member associations, a student wishing to obtain a classification can register for a classification through the national classification calendar on the Athletics Australia website. The national calendar will display all upcoming classification events, and links to register for each event, once a student has registered for an event the relevant event organiser will contact the student with more information regarding the classification event, once entries for the event have closed.

The student will then need to attend the event, and are given an appointment time, the student completes a medical and technical assessment and are classified at the conclusion of the assessment and will be added to the national classification Masterlist.

Process Overview

1. Register for National Classification via the classification calendar
2. Student receives appointment time and information
3. Student attends the classification
4. A classification result is given to the athlete and results for the classification are forwarded to Athletics Australia
5. Athletics Australia add the athlete to the national classification masterlist

What if I live in a regional area or cannot attend a national opportunity?

Students who live in a regional/country area or an athlete who cannot attend an upcoming opportunity can apply for a provisional classification, as most state championship events will have a classification event attached to them. The student can apply for a provisional classification and then if they progress through to the state championships attend the classification event attached to them. A student or teacher can apply for a provisional classification directly through Athletics Australia.

What if the State All Schools does not have a classification event?

If there is not a classification event at your state schools championships, as a school sport representative you can request a classification event through the relevant state athletics organisations, these requests must be made a minimum of 4 months prior to the event, and requests for classification must be made through the following organisations

TAS	Athletics Tasmania	www.tasathletics.org.au
VIC	Athletics Victoria	www.athsvic.org.au
ACT	Athletics ACT	www.athleticsact.org.au
NSW	Athletics New South Wales	www.nswathletics.org.au
QLD	Queensland Athletics	www.qldathletics.org.au
SA	Athletics South Australia	www.athleticssa.com.au
NT	Athletics Northern Territory	www.ntathletics.org.au
WA	Athletics Western Australia	www.waathletics.org.au

Vision Impairment Classification National Organisation - Australian Paralympic Committee

Classification Process

1. An athlete who wishing to obtain a Vision impairment classification must arrange for an assessment with APC certified VI classifiers.
2. The athlete can be directed the APC website and go to the [Vision impairment classification](#) page. Alternatively the athlete can call the APC on 02 9704 0500. The athlete then should download and read carefully the [Vision Impairment Classification Information Sheet](#).
3. Athletes should contact the APC using the [Get Into Sport Form](#) or by phoning 02 9704 0500 to determine the next steps for classification (provisional paperwork or face to face assessment).
4. Athletes will require documentation from their ophthalmologist prior to attending classification. The Athlete should download [VI medical screen document](#) and arrange for this to be completed by their ophthalmologist. Athletes may also present to classification with previous reports from their ophthalmologist.
5. The athlete either attends face to face classification assessment or submits provisional classification application.
6. Once the classification assessment has been completed, the classification paperwork will be returned to the APC. The APC will forward a copy of the classification paperwork to Athletics Australia.
7. Athletics Australia will then add the athlete to the [national Para-Athletics Masterlist](#).

For more information please contact :



Australian Paralympic Committee
Classification Services

p: 02 9704 0500

e: classification@paralympic.org.au

www.paralympic.org.au/vision-classification



Deaf & Hearing Impairment Classification National Organisation - Deaf Sports Australia

Classification Process

1. An athlete who wishes to obtain a Deaf & Hearing impairment classification must undertake a hearing test and obtain an audiogram.
2. The athlete must download the DSA Deaf & Hearing Impairment classification form, complete and return it with their audiogram to DSA for classification. The form is available on both the DSA and AA website.
3. DSA will review the athlete's audiogram / application and confirm their classification.
4. DSA will add the athlete to their athletics database and forward information to Athletics Australia to add to the [National Para-Athletics Masterlist](#).

Once this process is complete and the athlete appears on the Masterlist they can compete Athletics Australia sanctioned track and field events in Australia under the T/F 01 Classification.

For more information please contact:



Deaf Sports Australia

Irena Farinacci

p: 03 9473 1191

e: irena.farinacci@deafsports.org.au

www.deafsports.org.au



Transplant Classification National Body - Transplant Australia

Classification Process

1. Athlete contacts Athletics Australia (AA), an AA Member Association (MA) or Transplant Australia (TA), and is then sent Transplant Classification Documents.
2. Athlete/Parent/Guardian must complete section 1 (classification card). Section 2 must be completed by a transplant specialist.
3. Once sections 1 and 2 are both completed the Athlete must return to TA, to confirm classification.
4. TA will then forward documents to AA to add athlete to [National Para-Athletics Masterlist](#).

Once this process is complete the Athlete can compete at Track and Field events in Australia under the T/F 60 Classification.

For more information please contact:



Transplant Australia

Chris Thomas

p: 02 9922 5400

e: chris.thomas@transplant.org.au or contactus@transplant.org.au

www.transplant.org.au

Intellectual Impairment Classification National Body – AUSRAPID

Classification Process

1. Athlete contacts AUSRAPID regarding intellectual impairment classification.
2. Athlete must complete the National eligibility application form.
3. AUSRAPID will then contact the athlete regarding their application and information regarding becoming classified through AUSRAPID.
4. Athletes will be issued an Intellectual impairment classification through AUSRAPID.
5. AUSRAPID contact Athletics Australia and add the athlete to the national Masterlist.

For more information please contact:



AUSRAPID

p: 03 5762 7494

e: mail@ausrapid.org.au

www.ausrapid.org.au

Implementing Classifications in competition as a competition organiser

MDS tables

Each para-athlete at a competition will have a classification, to ensure fair and equal competition, event organisers can then implement the use of the MDS tables to produce results for the competition. The MDS tables are available for download on the Athletics Australia website or you can contact Athletics Australia directly.

The MDS tables have been designed over a number of years to try and assist competition management to determine places in events where athletes with a variety of disabilities compete in the same event.

This table allows the officials to correctly adjudicate AWD events at school, interclub and state championship

The MDS was created to try and reduce the number of anomalies between the athletes competing against World Records, with considering given to the range within each classification group.

To provide a more accurate reflection of calculating the MDS, results are taken from International (World, Paralympic and World Championship Records) along with the Australian Records (Open, Under 20, Under 18 and Under 16) with an average taken from these performances.

The MDS is constantly reviewed and updated in July of each Year for the following 12 month period. Changes to the MDS are based on the relevant Records being updated at International, National and Underage events within each class.

This process is to try and enable that each athlete, and each class continue to have a relatively equal opportunity to not only perform at their best possible, but to also have a fairness in competing for medals.

Implement Weights

An athletes classification also allows them to compete using the correct implement weights, Para-athletics implement weights are available for download under the rules and technical information section on the Athletics Australia website.

For more information on any section of this document please contact

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