

# Classification

## General

In line with the National Classification Strategy developed in November 2009 and previously developed International guidelines the following processes and procedures have been established within QSS;

- School sport is recognized as 'Entry level' competition and, therefore temporary or provisional forms of classification will continue.
- National championships should require 'National level' classifications. QSS Athletes with a Disability can be nominated to participate in State level carnivals with approved temporary or provisional classifications. The Australian Paralympic Committee will endeavour to assistance with the National classification process by providing classification panels at each of the School Sport State Championships.

The QSSDAC encourages all AWD to acquire a National level classification where possible.

## Proof of classification

Upon classification, all AWD competitors will be sent a classification card/ letter from the State Disability Organization or Swimming Australia OR be placed on a Masterlist by the classifying body.

**TO COMPETE AT QSS EVENTS AWD MUST BE OF ELIGIBLE CLASSIFICATION ON THE APPROPRIATE MASTERLIST (APC / Swimming Australia / Athletics Australia / AUSRAPID / Deaf Sport Australia ). ALL AWD NOT ON ONE OF THESE MASTERLISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT THEIR CLASSIFICATION CARD/LETTER TO THE AWD MANAGER OR COORDINATOR PRIOR TO THE START OF COMPETITION.**

NB: All classifiers are voluntary and the time required to process a classification may vary. In particular PI & VI classifications may take a significant time and everyone is encouraged to begin this classification process ASAP.

The following are the Disability areas and the minimum eligibility criteria for each disability;

## Intellectual Impairment

### Minimum eligibility criteria for Intellectual Impairment

The following criteria must be met in order for athletes to meet the minimal eligibility criteria.

1. **Significant impairment in intellectual functioning** as indicated by a full scale score of 75 or lower on an internationally recognized and professionally administered IQ test (eg a WISC-R or WAIS-III)
2. **Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour** as expressed in conceptual, social or practical adaptive skills
3. **Developmental Evidence** of intellectual disability prior to 18 years age.

## Visual Impairment

### Minimum eligibility criteria for Visual Impairment

- B1** From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.  
**(T/F11)**  
**(S11)**
- B2** Ability to recognise objects up to a distance of 2 metres i.e. below 2/60 and/or visual field of less than five (5) degrees.  
**(T/F12)**  
**(S12)**
- B3** Can recognise contours between 2 and 6 metres away i.e. 2/60 – 6/60 and/or visual field of more  
**(T/F13)**  
**(S13)**

## Physical Impairment

### Minimum eligibility criteria for Physical Impairment

**Amputees** Total or partial absence of bones or joints of the arms, legs or pelvic region as a result of trauma or illness. Classes are generally assigned to the athlete according to the number of limbs affected and the location in relation to major joints, (eg below elbow).

### Minimal Disability

Generally, the amputation must be at least through the ankle or wrist. Specific exceptions exist where the hands or feet play a critical part in the sport such as cycling, rowing, or alpine skiing.

**Spinal Cord Injury** Spinal cord damage as result of injury or a congenital condition such as spina bifida that causes loss of muscle strength or paralysis in the trunk and legs (paraplegia) or legs, trunk and arms (quadriplegia) Classes are generally assigned based on where the injury has occurred in the spine and how this affects body movement.

### Minimal Disability

Generally, the muscle weakness in the legs, trunk, and / or arms, is tested using a 5 point scale. Athletes generally must lose at least 15- 20 points to be eligible for a Paralympic Sport.

**Cerebral Palsy** This group encompasses those who have cerebral palsy or an acquired brain injury or condition in which muscle tone, balance or movement co-ordination is affected. This includes conditions such as hypertonia (quadriplegia, diplegia, hemiplegia), dystonia, athetosis and ataxia. Classes are sport specific and are assigned according to the impact on movement, balance and co-ordination and which areas of the body are affected most significantly.

### Minimal Disability

Cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury resulting in physical impairment such as spasticity, ataxia or athetosis in at least one limb. The impairment must affect and be observable during sport specific skills.

**Les Autres** This French term for “the others” includes athletes with physical disabilities that do not fall into the other classification categories. This includes, but is not limited to persons with short stature, congenital limb deficiencies and acquired conditions impacting on muscle strength, joint movement and limb length. Classes are assigned according to the number of limbs affected, the movement or limb affected.

### Minimal Disability

The maximum height for any athletes with short stature is 145cm in height. Otherwise, the minimal criteria is a disability equivalent to amputation through the wrist or ankle, or 15-20 points muscle loss as described in spinal cord injury section. Assessment is based on a combination of height, strength,

## Hearing Impairment

### Minimum eligibility criteria for Hearing Impairment

55db loss on the average at 500,1000 and 2000Hz in the better ear. *(Please note that to meet the requirements for Hearing Impairment a student who is classified as Hearing Impaired MUST REMOVE all hearing devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants) before competing)*