

## Classification

### General

In line with the National and International guidelines the following processes and procedures have been established within Queensland School Sport (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 assist with the National classification process by providing classification panels at each of the School Sport State Championships.

The QSS Disability Advisory Committee (QSSDAC) encourages all athletes in multi-class events to acquire a National level classification where possible.

### Proof of classification

Upon classification, all athletes in multi-class events 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 MULTI-CLASS EVENTS ATHLETES MUST BE OF ELIGIBLE CLASSIFICATION AND LISTED ON THE APPROPRIATE MASTERLIST (Swimming Australia / Athletics Australia / Sport Inclusion Australia / Deaf Sport Australia). ALL ATHLETES NOT ON ONE OF THESE MASTERLISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT EVIDENCE OF THEIR CLASSIFICATION TO THE MULTI-CLASS EVENT MANAGER / 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

#### II1

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 (e.g. 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.

#### II2

Evidence required

1. Copy of genetic testing showing a formal diagnosis and type of Down syndrome (Tri21) or statement from Physician.
2. AAI status signed by Physician (See Athlete Application Page 3) and copy of AAI exam results if available.



## 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 of 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, (e.g. 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 (Au2 only)**

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)*

