

Classification Information Sheet

Swimming

Introduction

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Swimming. It is not to be used to make classification or athlete selection decisions. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the classification rules of the sport, which are determined by the International Federation for the sport. Sport Classification Rules change from time to time, and this guide represents the classification system current at the date of publication.

Which Disability groups can compete in this sport?

| Paralympic Categories | Non-Paralympic Categories |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Impaired • Cerebral Palsy • Amputees • Wheelchair • Other injuries and impairments • Intellectual Disability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing Impaired • Transplantees |

What is the Minimal Disability?

In order to be eligible to compete in a sport as an athlete with a disability, it is not sufficient simply to have a disability. Specific and objective testing is used to determine whether a person's disability results in sufficient limitation of their ability to perform the core elements of the relevant sport. This is different for each sport and is termed the minimal disability criteria. Only authorised classifiers are able to determine whether a person meets the minimal disability criteria for a particular sport.

What are the Paralympic classes for this sport?

Swimming combines the conditions of limb loss, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, and other disabilities such as dwarfism across classes. The prefix for each class identifies the stroke;

- S** denotes the class for freestyle, backstroke and butterfly
SB denotes the class for breaststroke
SM denotes the class for individual medley

The list below contains examples of the type of disabilities found in each class for Swimming, current at the date of publication. The list is intended as a guide only. For more specific information, please use the resources on the last page of this information sheet.

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| Class | Examples (Guide Only) |
|---|---|
| Functional Classification System | |
| S1 SB1 SM1 | Swimmers who have significant coordination problems in four limbs; or those who have no use of their legs, trunk, hands with minimal use of their shoulders only. These swimmers usually swim on their back. Swimmers in this class would use a wheelchair for mobility. |
| S2 SB1 SM2 | Swimmers who are able to use their arms with no use of their hands, legs or trunk; or those swimmers who have severe co-ordination problems in all 4 limbs. |
| S3 SB2 SM3 | Swimmers with reasonable arm strokes but do not have use of their legs or trunk; swimmers with significant coordination problems in all limbs; swimmers with severe limb loss to all four limbs. |
| S4 SB3 SM4 | Swimmers who use their arms and have some weakness in their hands but do not have use of their trunk or legs; swimmers with coordination problems affecting all limbs but predominantly in the legs; swimmers with limb loss to 3 limbs. |
| S5 SB4 SM5 | Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands but no trunk or leg function; swimmers with milder coordination problems of all limbs. |
| S6 SB5 SM6 | Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands with some trunk control but no useful leg function; swimmers with coordination problems (usually these athletes walk); swimmers with major limb loss of 2 limbs on the same side; specific type of dwarfism (< 130cm for women and 137cm for men). |
| S7 SB6 SM7 | Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; coordination or weakness problems on the same side of the body; major limb loss of 2 limbs. |
| S8 SB7 SM8 | Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; limb loss of 2 limbs; swimmers without the use of one arm. |
| S9 SB8 SM9 | Swimmers with severe weakness in one leg only; swimmers with very slight coordination problems; swimmers with one limb loss Unless there is an underlying medical condition usually all of these athletes will start out of the water. |
| S10 SB9 SM10 | Swimmers with very minimal weakness affecting the legs; swimmers with restriction of hip joint movement; swimmers with limited movement of both feet; swimmers with minor limb loss of part of a limb. |
| Visually Impaired Classes | |
| S11 | Swimmers are unable to see at all or have minimal light perception and are considered totally blind. They must wear blackened goggles if they swim in this class. They will also require someone to tap them when they are approaching a wall. |
| S12 | Swimmers can recognise the shape of a hand and have some ability to see. There is a large range of vision ability within this class. |
| S13 | Swimmers who are the most sighted but have a significant visual impairment. |



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| Intellectual Disability | |
|-------------------------|--|
| S14 | Swimmers with an IQ score of 75 or less and with significant limitations in adaptive behaviour expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. |

Further Information

APC National Classification Manager

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Tel: +61 2 9704 0500

Australian Paralympic Committee Website:

<http://www.paralympic.org.au/Sport/Classification/>

IPC Website:

www.ipc-swimming.org

Swimming Australia Website:

www.swimming.org.au