



# Classification Procedures Manual

Updated: August 2013

Developed in consultation with

Australian Paralympic Committee | AUSRAPID | Deaf Sports Australia | Transplant Australia  
School Sport Australia | State & Territory Swimming Associations



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Classification is an integral part of competition for swimmers with disability, known as Multi Class competition. Swimming Australia plays an important role in leading the development of the Australian Classification System and in the delivery of classification services at all levels. Ensuring that the Australian Swimming Classification System is sustainable and accessible to all swimmers with disability is vital to achieving our community participation and high performance goals.

The Classification Procedures Manual has been produced as a reference document for Swimming Australia, its Stakeholders, Administrators, Coaches, Officials, Swimmers and Parents. It outlines the various system elements and provides useful resources and information.

This document should be considered a reference guide only and is not to be considered a definitive resource or substitute for relevant policies, rules, regulations and by-laws for swimming classification or competition. In all situations the relevant national or international classification Policy, Rules or Regulations take precedent.

The Classification Procedures Manual relates to the following Polices, Rules and Regulations:

- Swimming Australia Classification Policy
- Swimming Australia Swimming Rules
- Swimming Australia By-Laws for conduct of Australian Championships
- State Swimming Association Competition Rules, Policies and By-laws
- School Sport Australia Competition Rules, Policies and By-Laws
- Classification System Partner Rules and Policies

Information contained in this document is current at the time of publishing. The Classification Procedures Manual may be modified or updated at any time as deemed necessary by Swimming Australia Ltd.

## 2 GLOSSARY

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<b>APC</b>	Australian Paralympic Committee
<b>Assessment</b>	Specific clinical procedure conducted during athlete evaluation processes
<b>ATG</b>	Australian Transplant Games
<b>AUSRAPID</b>	Australian Sport and Recreation Association for People with Integration Difficulties
<b>CISD</b>	The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
<b>Sport Class</b>	The group a swimmer competes in for respective events
<b>Classification</b>	Refers to the system of grouping athletes based on impact of impairment
<b>DSA</b>	Deaf Sports Australia
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	Requirements under which athletes are evaluated for a Sport Class
<b>Evaluation</b>	Process of determining if an athlete meets eligibility criteria for a Sport Class
<b>HI</b>	Hearing Impairment
<b>II</b>	Intellectual Impairment
<b>Inas</b>	International Federation for Sport for Para-athletes with an Intellectual Disability
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee
<b>IPC-Swimming</b>	International Federation for Paralympic Swimming
<b>LogMAR</b>	Visual acuity measurement; <i>Logarithm of the Minimum Angle of Resolution</i>
<b>Multi Class</b>	Competition format where by swimmers of different classes compete in the same event
<b>NC</b>	National Confirmed
<b>NE</b>	Not Eligible
<b>NR</b>	National Review
<b>NSO</b>	National Sports Organisation
<b>PI</b>	Physical Impairment
<b>PrR</b>	Provisional Review
<b>R</b>	Review
<b>S</b>	Class prefix for freestyle, backstroke and butterfly
<b>SAL</b>	Swimming Australia Ltd
<b>SB</b>	Class prefix for breaststroke
<b>SM</b>	Class prefix for individual medley
<b>SSA</b>	School Sport Australia
<b>TA</b>	Transplant Australia
<b>System Partners</b>	Organisations with a responsibility for administering the swimming classification systems in Australia
<b>Tp</b>	Transplant
<b>VI</b>	Vision Impairment
<b>WTGF</b>	World Transplant Games Federation

## 3 AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

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### 3.1 Purpose

The Australian Swimming Classification System provides a structure for competition for swimmers with disability. Classification groups athletes according to the impact of their impairment on their ability to compete in the sport of swimming. The purpose of classification in swimming is to minimise the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of competition so that athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to best effect. In Australia swimming classification is designed to ensure a fair environment for competition at all levels from club through to Australian Championships.

### 3.2 Minimal Criteria

Each classification system has a set of eligibility criteria that must be met. In order to be eligible to compete in swimming as an athlete with disability, it is not sufficient simply to have a disability. Specific and objective criteria and testing is used to determine whether a person's impairment results in sufficient activity limitation of their ability to perform the core elements of swimming. Only authorised individuals such as certified classifiers are able to determine whether a person meets the minimal disability criteria for a particular class.

### 3.3 The Class Groups

There are 16 classes in the Australian swimming classification system. The classes are designated as follows:

#### 3.3.1 Paralympic Classes:

- 1-10 Swimmers with physical impairment (PI)
- 11-13 Swimmers with vision impairment (VI)
- 14 Swimmers with intellectual impairment (II)

#### 3.3.2 Other Classes:

- 15 Swimmers with hearing impairment (HI)
- 16 Swimmers who have received a transplant (Tp)

#### 3.3.3 Not eligible:

Swimmers who undergo National Athlete Evaluation and are found to not meet the Minimal Criteria are classified Not Eligible (NE). PI and VI swimmers classified NE at their first appearance are eligible to be re-evaluated by a different Classification panel. The outcome of the re-evaluation is final.

### 3.4 Stroke Classes

Swimmers receive a class for each stroke discipline. A prefix indicates which stroke the class applies to. The stroke classes are designated as follows:

- S Indicates the class for Freestyle, Backstroke & Butterfly
- SB Indicates the class for Breaststroke
- SM Indicates the class for Individual Medley

### 3.5 National Sport Class Status

All Paralympic classifications are allocated a Sport Class Status which indicates conditions of a swimmers classification. Sport class status is allocated as part of the Athlete Evaluation Process. (View the summary in Appendix A)

#### 3.5.1 Provisional Status

National Provisional status is indicated by the code Pr. All Pr classifications are also allocated a Review status indicated by the status code R (see National Review Status below). PrR status is allocated to swimmers having undergone Provisional National Athlete Evaluation, either remotely or face to face, without being reviewed by a full classification panel.

### **3.5.1.1 Applicable Classes**

- Classes 1-10
- Classes 11-13

### **3.5.1.2 Conditions of a PrR classification**

- A PrR status classification is an indication of class only and does not guarantee eligibility
- A PrR status classification is valid for club, local and regional levels of competition
- Validity for State Swimming Association championships, team selection or records is determined by the relevant State Swimming Association
- Validity for State School Sport championships, team selection or records is determined by the relevant State School Sport Association
- A PrR status classification is not valid for National Championships, team selections or records (unless otherwise stated)
- A PrR status classification is valid for 12 months from the date of issue

### **3.5.2 National Review Status**

National Review Status is indicated by the code NR. NR status is allocated to swimmers having undergone National Athlete Evaluation by a full Australian national classification panel, and where a swimmer is required to undergo evaluation again in the future in situations such as:

- new athletes to the sport
- borderline classifications
- fluctuating disability
- athlete has not completed physical maturation
- an athlete has sustained their condition less than 2 years previously
- it is not certain that the person has cooperated fully with the classification evaluation
- Swimmers deemed NE at the first appearance

#### **3.5.2.1 Applicable Classes**

- Classes 1-10
- Classes 11-13

#### **3.5.2.2 Conditions of a NR classification**

- The classification panel may allocate a review period
- The classification may not be re-evaluated until the allocated year for review
- In the case that no year for review has been allocated or the year for review has lapsed, the swimmer should present for re-evaluation upon request or at the next available opportunity
- A NR status classification is valid for all levels of competition in Australia

### **3.5.3 National Confirmed Status**

National Confirmed Status is indicated by the code NC. For classes 1-10 and 11-13 NC status is allocated to swimmers having undergone face to face National Athlete Evaluation by a full Australian national classification panel. NC status is also allocated to Swimmers deemed NE at the second appearance. For classes 14, 15 and 16 NC status is allocated to swimmers having undergone National Athlete Evaluation by completing the relevant National Eligibility Application.

#### **3.5.3.1 Applicable Classes**

- Classes 1-10
- Classes 11-13
- Class 14
- Class 15
- Class 16

#### **3.5.3.2 Conditions of a NC classification**

- NC status classification cannot be re-evaluated, unless the classification rules change, or in other exceptional circumstances
- A NC status classification is valid for all levels of Australian competition



## 4 CLASSIFICATION AND COMPETITION

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### 4.1 Multi Class Competition

To be eligible to compete in Multi Class competitions at any level in Australia a swimmer must have completed Athlete Evaluation for their relevant classification group and been allocated an eligible classification. The classification details must also be recorded in the National Swimming Classification Master List.

### 4.2 Standard Competition

Swimmers with disability are entitled to participate in standard (able-body) competitions and should be encouraged to do so where appropriate. A classification is not required and generally swimmers must be prepared to participate under normal swimming rules with no modifications and with no rule exceptions.

However, it is possible to recognise rule exceptions for classified swimmers in standard competition. Meet organisers may conduct integrated race events with officials observing rule exceptions for classified swimmers. Typically this is ideal for club nights, smaller inter-club, local or regional level meets where Multi Class entries may be low or separate Multi Class events are not reasonably able to be included on the program.

It is important to be aware of the relevant rules regarding records and results when recognising Classifications within standard events.

### 4.3 Multiple Classifications

Swimmers with more than one impairment type may be eligible for multiple classifications. Swimmers must meet the minimal eligibility criteria for each relevant classification system. In competition swimmers may only compete with one classification. The classification must be nominated when entering the meet and may not change throughout the meet. In the case of rule exceptions only the rule exceptions associated with the nominated class will apply.

### 4.4 More information

- ↳ Multi Class Point Score Guidelines
- ↳ GO Club Guide to conducting Multi Class Competition

## 5 DELIVERING NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SERVICES

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### 5.1 National Classification System Partners

SAL and the National Classification System Partners will cooperate in the delivery of National Athlete Classification Services so that athletes have obtained an appropriate level of classification prior to competition. Swimming Australia Ltd recognises the following National Disability Sports Organisations with a responsibility for the management of classification in Australia:

#### **Australian Paralympic Committee (APC)**

The APC is the peak body in Australia representing Paralympic Sport. As the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) and signatory to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code and International Standards (2007), the APC is ultimately responsible for all Paralympic classification processes and procedures occurring within Australia. Paralympic classification includes the systems for swimmers with a physical, visual and intellectual impairment.



**Contact:**

PO Box 596, Sydney Markets NSW 2129  
Tel: +61 2 9704 0513  
Email: [classification@paralympic.org.au](mailto:classification@paralympic.org.au)  
Web: [www.paralympic.org.au](http://www.paralympic.org.au)

#### **Australian Sport and Recreation Association for People with Integration Difficulties (AUSRAPID)**

AUSRAPID is the peak body in Australia representing the needs of athletes with intellectual impairment. AUSRAPID is responsible for managing the national eligibility process for athletes wishing to compete within the intellectual disability classification. AUSRAPID is the Australian Member organisation of International Federation for sport for para-athletes with an intellectual disability (Inas). Inas manages and oversees international eligibility for athletes with intellectual impairment.



**Contact:**

4 Lowry Place Benalla VIC 3672  
Tel: +61 3 5762 7494  
Fax: +61 3 5762 3560  
Email: [mail@ausrapid.org.au](mailto:mail@ausrapid.org.au)  
Web: [www.ausrapid.org.au](http://www.ausrapid.org.au)

#### **Deaf Sports Australia (DSA)**

DSA is the peak body in Australia representing sport for people with a hearing impairment. DSA is responsible for the conduct of the Australian Deaf Games and manages teams to represent Australia at the Deaflympic Games. DSA is ultimately responsible for determining eligibility for athletes with hearing impairment in Australia. DSA is the Australian Member Organisation of the International Sports Committee for the Deaf (ISCD). ISCD manages and oversees international eligibility for athletes with hearing impairment.



**Contact:**

Level 3, 340 Albert Street  
East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
Tel: (03) 9473 1191  
Fax: (03) 9473 1122  
Email: [irena.farinacci@deafsports.org.au](mailto:irena.farinacci@deafsports.org.au)  
Web: [www.deafsports.org.au](http://www.deafsports.org.au)

#### **Transplant Australia (TA)**

TA is a national body representing the needs of transplant recipients, those awaiting transplant, living donors, donor families and those working in the organ and tissue donation and transplantation sector. TA is responsible for the conduct of the Australian Transplant Games and manages teams to represent Australia at the World Transplant Games. TA is ultimately responsible for determining eligibility for

athletes who have received a transplant in Australia. TA is the Australian member organisation of the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF). WTGF is responsible for the conduct of the World Transplant games and manages international eligibility criteria for athletes who have received a transplant.



#### **Contact**

PO Box 592, North Sydney NSW 2059  
Tel: 1800 827 757 or 02 9922 5400  
Fax: 02 9954 6412  
Email: [contactus@transplant.org.au](mailto:contactus@transplant.org.au)  
Web: [www.transplant.org.au](http://www.transplant.org.au)  
Web: [www.australiantransplantgames.com](http://www.australiantransplantgames.com)

## **5.2 Swimming Australia's Role**

As the National Sports Organisation (NSO) responsible for swimming in Australia Swimming Australia Ltd (SAL) aims to ensure all Australian swimmers with physical, visual, intellectual or auditory impairments and those who have received a transplant are able to have access to classification opportunities that are appropriate to their level of competition.

SAL works in partnership with classification system partners, state and territory swimming associations, technical officials, accredited coaches and members to ensure swimming classification is enforced in accordance with national and international standards as determined by the rules and regulations of the relevant International Federations and national classification system partner policies.

SAL determines the classification requirements for National level competitions and provides guidance and support to its stakeholders on best practice for classification requirements and service delivery.

## **5.3 State and Territory Swimming Associations Role**

State and Territory Swimming Associations play an important role in the national classification system. State and Territory Swimming Associations determine classification requirements for state level competitions and facilitate and ensure access to classification services and information for members and non-members in State and Territory competition pathways. They provide leadership in the delivery of classification services in cooperation with the State School Sport Association, relevant State Disability Sport Organisations and Swimming Australia. They are also recognised as the first point of contact for classification enquiries and information.

### **Swimming New South Wales**

29/11-21 Underwood Rd  
HOMEBUSH NSW 2140  
T: 02 9763 5833  
E: [admin@nsw.swimming.org.au](mailto:admin@nsw.swimming.org.au)

### **Swimming Queensland**

Brisbane Aquatic Centre  
Cnr Old Cleveland and Tilley Rds  
CHANDLER QLD 4157  
T: 07 3390 2011  
E: [admin.qld@swimming.org.au](mailto:admin.qld@swimming.org.au)

### **Swimming WA**

Level 1 Beatie Park Leisure Centre  
Vicent St  
NORTH PERTH WA 6006  
T: 08 9328 4599  
E: [wasa@wa.swimming.org.au](mailto:wasa@wa.swimming.org.au)

### **Swimming SA**

SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre  
443 Morphett Rd  
OAKLANDS PARK SA 5046  
T: 08 7123 0848  
E: [admin@swimmingsa.org.au](mailto:admin@swimmingsa.org.au)

### **Swimming Victoria**

Melbourne Sports and Aquatic  
Centre  
Aughtie Dr  
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206  
T: 03 9686 5222  
E: [sv.admin@vic.swimming.org.au](mailto:sv.admin@vic.swimming.org.au)

### **Swimming NT**

Sports House  
Warratah Cres  
FANNIE BAY NT 0820  
T: 08 8981 5483  
E: [admin.nt@swimming.org.au](mailto:admin.nt@swimming.org.au)

### **Swimming Tasmania**

5 Franklin Wharf  
HOBART TAS 7000  
T: 03 6222 6555  
E: [admin@tas.swimming.org.au](mailto:admin@tas.swimming.org.au)

## 5.4 School Sport Australia's Role

School Sport Australia plays an important role in the national classification system. School Sport Australia determines classification requirements and facilitates and ensures access to classification services and information for students participating in School Sport swimming competition pathways. They provide leadership in the delivery of classification services in cooperation with the State School Sport Associations, relevant classification system partners and Swimming Australia.



### **School Sport Australia**

PO Box 1109  
CARLTON VIC 3053  
T: 03 8689 0170  
E: [school.sport.australia@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.sport.australia@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
W: [www.schoolsport.edu.au](http://www.schoolsport.edu.au)

### **National Swimming Secretary**

Clare Labowitch  
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10 Atkins Drive  
DARWIN NT 0810  
P: 08 981 2253  
F: 08 8981 2137  
E: [labc@bigpond.com](mailto:labc@bigpond.com)

For State Primary and Secondary School Sport contacts visit [www.schoolsport.edu.au](http://www.schoolsport.edu.au) or contact School Sport Australia directly.

## 5.5 Swimming Community's Role

Coaches, administrators, parents, school sport coordinators clubs and regional associations all play a role in supporting the National Classification System. Understanding the importance of classification and providing assistance to swimmers in accessing classification services appropriate to their level of competition is vital to the success and development of Multi Class swimmers.

## 5.6 Classifiers and Eligibility Officers

These qualified individuals are responsible for the conduct of Athlete Evaluation processes and determine eligibility of athletes within their respective classification systems. SAL only recognises classifications where athletes are assessed by individuals accredited or endorsed by the relevant Classification System Partner. Classifiers may be engaged by Classification System Partners, SAL, State and Territory Swimming Associations or School Sport Australia to conduct Athlete Evaluations.

## 6 ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION PROCESSES

### 6.1 Physical Impairment

SAL adopts IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations for classification of swimmers with physical impairment as detailed in section 2.1. of the Swimming Australia Classification Policy. This section provides information applicable to a national setting.

SAL recognises the APC as the organisation in Australia responsible for determining eligibility of swimmers with physical impairment and adheres to the eligibility criteria and processes administered by the APC.

#### 6.1.1 Eligibility

Athletes are eligible if affected by at least 1 of the following impairments:

- Hypertonia (i.e. Cerebral Palsy (CP), stroke, acquired brain injury)
- Ataxia (i.e. ataxia resulting from CP, brain injury)
- Athetosis (i.e. chorea, athetosis from CP)
- Loss of limb or limb deficiency (i.e. amputation resulting from trauma or congenital limb deficiency – dysmelia)
- Impaired ACTIVE range of movement (i.e. arthrogryposis, ankylosis, scoliosis)
- Impaired muscle power (i.e. spinal cord injury, muscular, dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, spina bifida, post-polio, Guillain-Barre syndrome)
- Limb-length difference (i.e. congenital or traumatic causes of bone shortening in one limb)
- Short stature (i.e. achondroplasia, spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia)

Class	Criteria
<b>S1 SB1 SM1</b>	Swimmers in this sport class have a significant loss of muscle power or control in their legs, arms and hands. Some athletes also have limited trunk control, as it may occur with tetraplegia. These impairments may be caused by spinal-cord injuries or polio. Swimmers in this class usually use a wheelchair in daily life
<b>S2 SB1 SM2</b>	Swimmers in this sport class are able to use their arms with no use of their hands, legs or trunk or have severe co-ordination problems in four limbs. As in sport class S1 SB1 SM1, athletes mostly only compete in backstroke events.
<b>S3 SB2 SM3</b>	This sport class includes athletes with amputations of all four limbs. Swimmers with reasonable arm strokes but no use of their legs or trunk and swimmers with severe co-ordination problems in all limbs are also included in this sport class.
<b>S4 SB3 SM3</b>	Swimmers who can use their arms and have minimal weakness in their hands, but cannot use their trunk or legs. Athletes with amputations of three limbs also swim in this sport class.
<b>S5 SB4 SM5</b>	Swimmers with short stature and an additional impairment, with loss of control over one side of their body (hemiplegia) or with paraplegia compete in this sport class.
<b>S6 SB5 SM6</b>	This sport class includes swimmers with short stature, amputations of both arms or moderate co-ordination problems on one side of their body.
<b>S7 SB6 SM7</b>	This profile is designated for athletes with one leg and one arm amputation on opposite sides, double leg amputations or a paralysis of one arm and one leg on the same side. Moreover, swimmers with full control over arms and trunk and some leg function can compete in this class.
<b>S8 SB7 SM8</b>	Swimmers who have lost either both hands or one arm are eligible to compete in this sport class. Also, athletes with severe restrictions in the joints of the lower limbs could compete in this sport class.
<b>S9 SB8 SM9</b>	Athletes in this sport class swim with joint restrictions in one leg, double below-the-knee amputations or an amputation of one leg.
<b>S10 SB9 SM10</b>	This class describes the minimal impairments of eligible swimmers with physical impairment. Eligible impairments would be the loss of a hand or both feet and a significantly limited function of one hip joint.

#### 6.1.2 Registering for Evaluation

All athletes with physical impairment wishing to undergo athlete evaluation should contact their State or Territory Swimming Association to register. Swimming Associations will maintain a register of athletes and advise of the next available classification opportunity. (See 4.3 for SSA contact details)

### 6.1.3 Athlete Evaluation Process

The Athlete Evaluation process employs Physical and Technical Assessment Tests designed to produce a point score for the relevant athlete. The cumulative point score from each test determines the Athletes Sport Class as described in the [IPC - Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations](#). Sport Classes range from S1 –S10 (Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly), SB1 – SB9 (Breaststroke) and SM1 – SM10 (Medley).

#### 6.1.3.1 Provisional National Athlete Evaluation

This process provides an indication of class and is intended for swimmers who do not have access to a full classification panel. Provisional National Athlete Evaluation is allocated by a certified classifier, and is conducted in line with IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations. Conditions of a Provisional National Athlete Evaluation are outlined in [2.5 National Sport Class Status](#).

There are 2 types of Provisional National Athlete Evaluations available in Swimming.

a) Remote Process:

- ↳ Swimmer obtains Physical Impairment Provisional National Athlete Evaluation Kit from their state swimming association (Appendix B).
- ↳ Approved specialist completes assessments outlined in the Kit
- ↳ Swimmer returns completed Kit to their State Swimming Association
- ↳ State Swimming Association forwards information to an approved medical classifier
- ↳ Classifier determines classification and returns completed forms to SAL
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)
- ↳ SAL informs the swimmer of the evaluation outcome

b) Face to Face Process:

This is conducted in line with the National Athlete Evaluation processes outlined in 5.1.3.2 below, where a classifier(s) has reviewed the athlete, but this has not met the requirements of one (1) Medical and one (1) Technical Classifier.

#### 6.1.3.2 National Athlete Evaluation

This procedure is conducted by a certified Classification Panel consisting of at least one (1) medical and one (1) technical classifier. Athlete Evaluation is recorded on the Physical Impairment Athlete Evaluation Sheet (Appendix C). The swimmer must meet the minimum eligibility criteria and may be required take part in each component in order to be classified. Conditions of a National Athlete Evaluation are outlined in [2.5 National Sport Class Status](#).

The National Athlete Evaluation Process includes three components:

- Physical Assessment (bench test)
- Technical Assessment (pool test)
- Observation Assessment (in competition)

Process:

- ↳ Swimmer contacts their state swimming association to register for Athlete Evaluation and receive more information.
- ↳ Swimmer attends scheduled Athlete Evaluation session
- ↳ Classification panel conducts Athlete Assessments and notifies swimmer of the outcome and provides a copy of the sheets to the swimmer
- ↳ Classifier forwards completed Athlete Evaluation Sheets to the National Classification Coordinator, Swimming Australia
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)

#### 6.1.3.3 International Athlete Evaluation

Swimmers wishing to compete at IPC-Swimming sanctioned international competition must complete IPC Swimming International Athlete Evaluation. Swimming Australia identifies, endorses and supports athletes to undertake IPC-Swimming International Classification as appropriate.

Typically swimmers selected to the Australian Swim Team or Squad receive this level of classification. Swimmers must hold an IPC licence in order to complete International Athlete Evaluation. International Athlete Evaluation is conducted and managed by IPC-Swimming. The APC will provide support to the SAL high performance program as requested in preparation for International Athlete Evaluation.

**Note:** Swimmers who are not able to fully complete all elements of the Athlete evaluation process for various reasons are deemed “Not Classifiable” and are not allocated a class or status. These athletes may present to classification again at a later date.

## 6.2 Visual Impairment Classification

SAL adopts IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations for classification of swimmers with visual impairment as detailed in section 2.1. of the Swimming Australia Classification Policy. This section provides information applicable to a national setting.

SAL recognises the APC as the organisation in Australia responsible for determining eligibility of swimmers with visual impairment and adheres to the eligibility criteria and processes administered by the APC.

### 6.2.1 Eligibility

Athletes are eligible if affected by at least 1 of the following impairments and the following criteria are met:

- impairment of the eye structure
- impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways
- impairment of the visual cortex of the central brain

Class	Criteria
<b>S11 SB11 SM11</b>	Generally athletes have a range from no light perception in either eye to light perception. Athletes generally have an inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction. Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60.
<b>S12 SB12 SM12</b>	Visual acuity below 2/60 and/or the visual field of less than a diameter of 10 degrees. LogMar 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive)
<b>S13 SB13 SM13</b>	Visual acuity ranges from 2/60 – 6/60, and/or a visual field that is constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees. LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive)

### 6.2.2 Registering for Evaluation

All athletes with visual impairment wishing to undergo athlete evaluation should contact their State Swimming Association to register and obtain the relevant forms.

### 6.2.3 Athlete Evaluation Process

Classification is based on an assessment by a certified APC VI classifier. These are Ophthalmic Professionals (Ophthalmologist, Orthoptist, Optometrist). National Classifications are usually allocated a review period, depending on the nature of the athletes vision impairment. Two Athlete Evaluation options are available.

#### 6.2.3.1 Remote Provisional Athlete Evaluation

This process is intended for swimmers who do not have access to an approved APC VI Classifier. A provisional athlete evaluation provides an indication of classification and is allocated by a certified APC VI classifier, in line with international classification rules for swimming. Conditions of a Provisional Athlete Evaluation are outlined in [2.5 National Sport Class Status](#).

- ↳ Swimmer obtains Vision Impairment Provisional National Athlete Evaluation Kit from the swimming association in their state (Appendix D)
- ↳ Swimmer visits their local ophthalmic professional to complete the Kit
- ↳ Swimmer forwards the Kit to the APC office in their state who will in turn forward this to a trained National VI Classifier who will complete the evaluation
- ↳ Completed kits are forwarded to the APC who in turn will forward a copy to SAL
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)
- ↳ SAL informs the swimmer of the evaluation outcome

### 6.2.3.2 National Athlete Evaluation

- ↳ Swimmer contacts APC office in their state to register for Athlete Evaluation and obtain the VI
- ↳ Swimmer obtains and completes the [Vision Impairment Medical Screening Form](#) (Appendix E)
- ↳ Classifier completes relevant assessment using the Visual Impairment Athlete Evaluation Sheet and then forwards results to the APC
- ↳ APC advises SAL of approved swimmers
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)

### 6.2.4 International Athlete Evaluation

Swimmers wishing to compete at IPC-Swimming sanctioned international competition must complete IPC International Athlete Evaluation. Typically swimmers selected to an Australian Swim Team or Squad receive this level of classification. Swimmers must hold an IPC licence in order to complete international classification. International Athlete Evaluation for Paralympic competition is managed by IPC-Swimming. The APC will provide support to the SAL high performance program as requested in preparation for International Athlete Evaluation.

**Note:** Swimmers who are not able to fully complete all elements of the classification process for various reasons are deemed not classifiable and are not allocated a class or status. These athletes may present to classification again at a later date.

## 6.3 Intellectual Impairment Classification

SAL adopts IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations and the INAS Eligibility and Classification Policy for classification of swimmers with intellectual impairment as detailed in section 2.1. of the Swimming Australia Classification Policy. This section provides information applicable to a national setting.

SAL recognises AUSRAPID as the organisation in Australia responsible for determining eligibility of swimmers with intellectual impairment and adheres to the eligibility criteria and processes administered by AUSRAPID.

### 6.3.1 Eligibility

Eligibility has been introduced to promote the growth of eligibility classification within Australia. National Eligibility with AUSRAPID is valid for all levels of Australian domestic competition.

Class	Criteria
<b>S14 SB14 SM14</b>	1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean, that is, a Full Scale score of 75 or lower.
	2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This is defined as performance that is at least 2 standard deviations below the mean of, either: a) One of the following 3 types of adaptive behaviour: conceptual, social, or practical skills b) An overall score on a standardised measure of conceptual, social and practical skills
	3. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 18 years of age.

### 6.3.2 National Athlete Evaluation Process

This process is intended for athletes wishing to compete as an athlete with intellectual impairment in all levels of competition within Australia. This process is administered by AUSRAPID and is recorded on the [AUSRAPID National Eligibility Application Form](#) (Appendix F). It confirms that the swimmer meets the eligibility criteria detailed in section 5.3.1. above. Conditions of a National Athlete Evaluation are outlined in [2.5 National Sport Class Status](#)

- ↳ Swimmer obtains the [AUSRAPID National Eligibility Application](#) from [www.ausrapid.org.au](http://www.ausrapid.org.au) or by contacting their State Swimming Association. Swimmers are advised to review the [National Eligibility Guidance notes](#)
- ↳ Swimmer completes the form and sends to AUSRAPID
- ↳ AUSRAPID processes application and advises swimmer of the outcome
- ↳ AUSRAPID advises SAL of approved swimmers and records details in the [AUSRAPID Master List](#)
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)



**Note:** There is an administration fee of \$30 for adults or \$10 for students payable to AUSRAPID to complete the application.

### 6.3.3 International Athlete Evaluation Process

International Athlete Evaluation is generally for swimmers who have been selected to an Australian Swim Team or Squad. There are three (3) levels of Inas International classification for athletes with an intellectual disability.

#### 6.3.3.1 Level 1 - Provisional International Eligibility

This permits entry to Inas Developmental Events and forms the basis for the AUSRAPID National Athlete Eligibility.

#### 6.3.3.2 Level 2 - Full Primary Eligibility

This permits entry to Inas Regional, World Championships and Global Games. This process is administered by INAS and swimmers should contact AUSRAPID to obtain the application form. Eligible athletes are recorded on the INAS Classification Master List (available at [www.inas.org](http://www.inas.org)). Testing documents for the INAS Primary Eligibility Check must have been completed within five (5) years of applying for eligibility. It is recommended for swimmers who show potential or aspire to compete at international level they should complete the Primary Eligibility Check as early as possible.

#### 6.3.3.3 Level 3 - Sport Specific Classification

This is necessary for international Paralympic competition. This process is determined and administered by IPC -Swimming. In Australia, this process is co-ordinated through the APC and SAL. This testing is used to determine whether a person's intellectual disability results in sufficient limitation in their ability to perform the core elements of swimming. This process can only be performed by accredited international classifiers. Swimmers must hold an IPC licence in order to complete this level of classification.

## 6.4 Hearing Impairment Classification

SAL adopts ICSD Eligibility Rules and Regulations for classification of swimmers with hearing impairment as detailed in section 2.1. of the Swimming Australia Classification Policy. This section provides information applicable to a national setting.

SAL recognises Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) as the organisation in Australia responsible for determining eligibility of swimmers with intellectual impairment and adheres to the DSA Eligibility Policy.

### 6.4.1 Eligibility

SAL recognises one class for swimmers with hearing impairment as described under Classification Code AU2 in the DSA Athlete Eligibility Policy.

Class	Criteria
<b>S15 SB15 SM15</b>	Swimmers who have a recognized hearing impairment according to the ICSD standards; deaf, defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB in the better ear, 3FAHL.

### 6.4.2 National Athlete Evaluation Process

This process is administered by DSA and is recorded on the DSA Audiogram Form (Appendix G). This includes the completion of an unaided pure tone Audiogram test completed by an Audiologist. It confirms that the swimmer meets the eligibility criteria detailed in section 5.5.1. above.

- ↳ Swimmer obtains the Audiogram Form from Deaf Sports Australia [www.deafsports.org.au](http://www.deafsports.org.au) or by contacting their State Swimming Association
- ↳ Swimmer takes Audiogram Form to Audiologist to confirm level of hearing loss
- ↳ Completed Audiogram Form submitted to DSA
- ↳ DSA assess the application and responds to swimmer advising class eligibility
- ↳ DSA advises SAL of Eligible swimmers
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)

### 6.4.3 International Athlete Evaluation Process

Swimmers who meet the DSA eligibility requirements will be automatically recognised for ICSD sanctioned international competition. International competition opportunities are managed by DSA.

## 6.5 Transplant Classification

SAL adopts the eligibility criteria determined by the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF). However this section provides consideration for the delivery of transplant classification in a national setting.

### 6.5.1 Eligibility

Transplant classifications are allocated in accordance with the World Transplant Games Federation eligibility criteria. A S16, SB16, SM16 class is valid for all levels of Multi Class competition or other competition where classifications are applied in Australia. Classified swimmers are eligible for national rankings, records and team selections.

Class	Criteria
S16 SB16 SM16	Any person having undergone invasive treatment of a non-cosmetic nature requiring organs and/or tissues, including bone marrow and stem cells, (excluding blood) donated by another person.

### 6.5.2 National Athlete Evaluation Process

- ↳ Swimmer obtains the Transplant Medical Certificate form from Transplant Australia (TA) [www.transplant.org.au](http://www.transplant.org.au) or by contacting their State Swimming Association (Appendix H)
- ↳ Swimmer takes Medical Certificate Form to their transplant specialist to complete transplant and medical information
- ↳ Completed Medical Certificate Form submitted to TA
- ↳ TA assess the application and responds to swimmer advising class eligibility
- ↳ TA advises SAL of Eligible swimmers
- ↳ SAL records Classification details in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#)

**Note:** *The transplant specialist must deem the swimmer fit to participate in swimming competition in order to be eligible.*

### 6.5.3 International Athlete Evaluation

Swimmers who have received a transplant may compete internationally at the World Transplant Games. National team selection is made by TA at the Australian Transplant Games. Eligibility is determined by the WTGF. This process is administered by TA.

## 7 EXCEPTIONS TO THE SWIMMING RULES

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Some swimmers are entitled to receive exceptions to the swimming rules and other considerations based on their classification. The exceptions prevent classified swimmers from being disqualified during Multi Class (MC) competition or in other competition where classifications and rule exceptions are observed. These exceptions are determined during the Athlete Evaluation and/or Eligibility process and are identified by a system of codes known as the Swimming Codes of Exceptions.

SAL has developed an additional resource to assist Technical Officials understand, interpret and apply rule exceptions in competition (Appendix I)

### 7.1 The Swimming Codes of Exceptions

#### 7.1.1 Starts

<b>W</b>	Water start
<b>F</b>	Feet start
<b>H</b>	Hearing impaired light, signal or touch required
<b>Y</b>	Starting device
<b>E</b>	Unable to grip for backstroke start
<b>A</b>	Assistance required
<b>T</b>	Tappers
<b>B</b>	Blackened goggles
<b>G</b>	Prosthesis/glass eyes
<b>Z</b>	Medical/lifeguard alert

#### 7.1.2 During Swimming

<b>0</b>	Nil
<b>1</b>	One hand start
<b>2</b>	Right hand touch
<b>3</b>	Left hand touch
<b>4</b>	Right hand touch with simultaneous intent to touch with other
<b>5</b>	Left hand touch with simultaneous intent to touch with other
<b>6</b>	Simultaneous intent to touch
<b>7</b>	Part of upper body must touch
<b>8</b>	Right foot must turn out
<b>9</b>	Left foot must turn out
<b>12</b>	Leg drag or show intent to kick
<b>+</b>	Butterfly kick is able to be performed

## 8 VERIFYING ATHLETE CLASSIFICATIONS PRIOR TO COMPETITION

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### 8.1 National Swimming Classification Master List

SAL manages the official Master List of swimmers classification details. All athletes wishing to compete in Multi Class competition or other competition where classification and rule exceptions are recognised must be recorded in the Master List prior to competition. Competition organisers can check the National Swimming Classification Master list to verify the classifications for each athlete who has entered the competition. The Master List is updated regularly and is available at [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au)

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the National Swimming Classification Master List

### 8.2 Swimming Australia Classification Card

The Swimming Australia Classification Card is intended to assist the effective management of competition for classified swimmers with disability. It provides an official record of an individual competitor's classification details. The card proves eligibility to compete in MC competition or other competition where classifications and rule exceptions are enforced. All athletes wishing to compete in Multi Class competition or other competition where classification and rule exceptions are recognised are expected to hold a current Classification Card. Classification Cards will be issued to eligible swimmers in accordance with the section 7 of the SAL Classification Policy.

Athletes may be requested by Officials or Event Organisers to present their Classification Card at any meet to verify their classification. It is advised swimmers have their classification card with them at all competitions.

At National and State Championships typically swimmers classification details are verified prior to competition by event organisers and the card is not required to be presented. For all other competitions the card should be presented to meet officials prior to competition unless otherwise stated.

**Note:** where swimmers hold multiple classifications a separate card will be issued for each eligible classification.

#### 8.2.1 Application Process

- ↳ Ensure Swimmer has completed the relevant Athlete Evaluation or Eligibility Process outlined in section 5.
- ↳ Complete the SAL Classification Card Application (Appendix J). There are two options:

- **Online Form:** Complete application online at [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au)
- **Print Form:** Download from [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au), complete and return to SAL.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply

- ↳ SAL will verify the swimmers membership and classification in accordance with the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#).
- ↳ Eligible swimmers will be sent a Classification Card and letter of confirmation directly. Swimmers not eligible for a classification card will be notified in writing.

#### 8.2.2 Application Requirements

##### 8.2.2.1 Physical Impairment

Swimmers with physical impairment must have completed athlete evaluation and be recorded in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#).

##### 8.2.2.2 Vision Impairment

Swimmers with visual impairment must have completed athlete evaluation be recorded in the [National Swimming Classification Master List](#).

##### 8.2.2.3 Intellectual Impairment

Swimmers with intellectual impairment must have completed athlete evaluation, be recorded in the [AUSRAPID Master List](#) and attach a copy of their current AUSRAPID membership card.

#### **8.2.2.4 Hearing Impairment**

Swimmers with hearing impairment must have completed athlete evaluation, be recorded in the DSA Classification Master List and attach a copy of confirmation of eligibility from DSA.

#### **8.2.2.5 Transplant Recipient**

Swimmers who have received a transplant must attach a copy of confirmation of eligibility issued by TA.

## 9 DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

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SAL will facilitate resolution of disputes relating to classification outcome and/or evaluation process in consultation with Classification System Partners and in accordance with the relevant Policy, Rules and Regulations described in the Classification Policy.

Disputes may be presented to SAL in writing by the athlete and/or the athlete's parent or legal guardian for whom the dispute relates to.

### 9.1 Appeals

Appeal refers to a formal objection to the manner or process in which classification procedures have been conducted.

#### 9.1.1 Appeals Submission

- ↳ Appeals may be submitted in writing to [classification@swimming.org.au](mailto:classification@swimming.org.au) or the SAL appointed representative at the competition where classification was conducted.

### 9.2 Protests

Protest refers to a formal objection to an athlete's sport class and/or status outcome which has been allocated through the classification process. The Protests process applies to Paralympic Classes only.

#### 9.2.1 Protest Submission

- ↳ Protests must be submitted on the official National Classification Protest Form (Appendix K)
- ↳ Completed forms should be submitted to [classification@swimming.org.au](mailto:classification@swimming.org.au) or the SAL appointed representative at the competition where classification was conducted.

### 9.3 Medical Review

Medical review refers to a change in condition since last classification evaluation which changes their impairment profile and may impact on the allocated sport class. The Medical Review process applies to Paralympic Classes only.

#### 9.3.1 Medical Review Submission

- ↳ Medical Reviews must be submitted on the official National Classification Review Request Form (Appendix L)
- ↳ The Review Request Form should be received by **Swimming Australia Ltd** within **6 months** of the intervention.
- ↳ Athletes should allow **3 months** for the review request to be processed.
- ↳ It is the responsibility of the athlete or their parent/guardian to complete this form and submit it to [classification@swimming.org.au](mailto:classification@swimming.org.au).

## 10 RELEVANT RESOURCES AND POLICIES

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### 10.1 Resources

#### **SAL Resources**

A range of simplified Classification Guides are available for download [CLICK HERE](#)

#### **APC Resources**

To support delivery of Classification services a range of resources for event organisers have been developed [CLICK HERE](#)

### 10.2 Policies

- SAL Classification Policy [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au)
- IPC Classification Code and International Standards [www.ipc-swimming.org/classification](http://www.ipc-swimming.org/classification)
- APC Classification Information and resources [www.paralympic.org.au/content/understanding-classification](http://www.paralympic.org.au/content/understanding-classification)
- AUSRAPID Eligibility and Application Information [www.ausrapid.org.au/ContentPages/eligibility](http://www.ausrapid.org.au/ContentPages/eligibility)
- DSA Athlete Eligibility Policy and Official Audiogram Data Sheet [www.deafsports.org.au/sports/participation](http://www.deafsports.org.au/sports/participation)
- World Transplant Games Federation eligibility and competition information [www.wtgf.org](http://www.wtgf.org)

## 11 APPENDICES

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Appendix A National Sport Class Status

Appendix B Physical Impairment Provisional National Athlete Evaluation Kit

Appendix C Physical Impairment Athlete Evaluation Sheet

Appendix D Vision Impairment Provisional National Athlete Evaluation Kit

Appendix E Vision Impairment Medical Screening Form

Appendix F AUSRAPID National Eligibility Application Form

Appendix G DSA Audiogram Form

Appendix H Transplant Medical Certificate Form

Appendix I Swimming Codes of Exceptions Interpretations for Technical Officials

Appendix J Classification Card Application Form

Appendix K National Classification Protest Form

Appendix L National Classification Review Request Form

**Note:** *Unless otherwise indicated all appendices are available by request from the State or Territory Swimming Association or by emailing [classification@swimming.org.au](mailto:classification@swimming.org.au).*