



Classification Policy

July 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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AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

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.

SAL will promote and support the implementation of this policy through the maintenance of relationships with Classification System Partners and Stakeholders, development of strategy to drive continued improvement of classification systems, development of resources and information that educate the swimming community about classification system eligibility requirements and athlete evaluation process.

STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CLASSIFICATION POLICY AND THEIR ROLES

The Board of Swimming Australia

Endorsement of the Classification Policy.

National Classification System Partners

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.

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.

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.

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.

State and Territory Swimming Associations

Assist in the periodic review of the Classification Policy and implement the Classification Policy at State and Territory level. Facilitate and ensure access to classification services and information for members and non-members in State and Territory competition pathways.

School Sport Australia

Assist in the periodic review of the Classification Policy and implement the Classification Policy in Australian School Sport swimming. Facilitate and ensure access to classification services and information for participants in the school sport swimming competition pathway.

Swimming Administrators

The club, regional and State and Territory administrators provide the direct link for information relating to implementing the Classification Policy and processes.

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.

WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to all swimmers in Australia with physical, vision, intellectual or hearing impairment and swimmers who have received a transplant who intend to compete in Multi Class events or events where swimming classification is required.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this Classification Policy is to clearly define the systems of classification adopted by Swimming Australia Ltd and recognise the role of system partners. It will ensure the ongoing provision of a consistent and sustainable swimming classification system nationally.

This policy may be amended from time to time by the resolution of SAL's Board of Directors.

CLASSIFICATION POLICY

1. All Australian swimmers with physical, visual, intellectual or auditory impairments and those who have received a transplant should have access to classification opportunities appropriate to their level of competition. (Appendix A)
2. As the National Sports Organisation responsible for swimming in Australia, Swimming Australia Ltd (SAL) accepts its role in ensuring 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.

2.1. Paralympic Classification

- Physical Impairment Classification

2.1.1. SAL adopts and adheres to [IPC Swimming classification rules and regulations](#) for swimmers with physical impairment.

2.1..2. SAL acknowledges the [APC Classification Policy](#) where it relates to physical impairment classification and agrees to cooperate with the APC in delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

- Visual Impairment Classification

2.1..3. SAL adopts and adheres to [IPC Swimming classification rules and regulations](#) for swimmers with vision impairment.

2.1..4. SAL acknowledges the [APC Classification Policy](#) where it relates to vision impairment classification and agrees to cooperate with the APC in delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

- Intellectual Impairment Classification

2.1..5. SAL adopts and adheres to [IPC Swimming classification rules and regulations](#) for swimmers with intellectual impairment where it relates to Sports Specific Classification for swimmers with intellectual impairment in IPC Swimming competition.

2.1..6. SAL adopts and adheres to the [Inas Eligibility and Classification Policy](#) where it relates to Primary Eligibility for international competition.

2.1..7. SAL adopts and adheres to the [AUSRAPID Eligibility Policy](#) where it relates to national competition and agrees to cooperate with AUSRAPID in delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

2.1..8. SAL acknowledges the [APC Classification Policy](#) where it relates to intellectual impairment classification and agrees to cooperate with the APC in delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

2.2. Other Classifications

- Hearing Impairment Classification

2.2..1. SAL adopts and adheres to [ICSD Eligibility Regulations](#) for swimmers with hearing impairment

2.2..2. SAL acknowledges the [DSA Eligibility Policy](#) and agrees to cooperate with DSA in delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

2.2..3. For the purpose of swimming competition swimmers must be eligible under the ICSD Eligibility Regulation and DSA Eligibility Policy and will be designated as Class 15.

- Transplant Classification

2.2..4. SAL adopts and adheres to the eligibility criteria outlined in the [World Transplant Games \(WTG\) Sport Rules](#) determined by the WTGF.

2.2..5. SAL acknowledges the [Australian Transplant Games \(ATG\) Eligibility Policy](#) determined by TA and agrees to cooperate with TA in the delivery of classification services under the terms of that policy.

2.2..6. For the purpose of swimming competition swimmers must be eligible under the WTG Sports Rules and ATG Eligibility Policy and will be designated as Class 16.

3. Exceptions to the Swimming Rules

3.1. Swimmers are entitled to receive exceptions to the swimming rules and other considerations based on their classification. 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 (classification) process and are identified by a system of codes known as the Swimming Codes of Exceptions (Appendix B).

4. Sport Class Status

4.1. All classifications are allocated a Sport Class Status which indicates conditions of a swimmers classification (Appendix C).

5. Swimmers with multiple classifications

5.1. Swimmers with more than one impairment type may be eligible for multiple classifications. Swimmers must meet the eligibility criteria for each relevant classification system.

5.2. 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.

5.3. Where a swimmer has qualified to progress to a subsequent level of competition the Classification with which they achieved qualification must be maintained through to the subsequent competition.

6. National Swimming Classification Master List

6.1. SAL manages the official Master List of swimmers classification details. SAL is responsible for making public and providing certain classification information (name, state, date of birth, classification, rule exceptions and status) to relevant parties such as the state swimming associations, school sport or disability sport organisations for the effective conduct of competition.

7. Swimming Australia Classification Card

7.1. The Swimming Australia Classification Card provides an official record of an individual competitor's classification details. The Classification Card proves eligibility to compete in Multi Class competition or other competition where classifications and rule exceptions are enforced.

7.2. Conditions of use:

- i. Will be issued by SAL
- ii. Will be issued to current financial SAL members in good standing only
- iii. Will be issued to swimmers with an eligible Classification with status National Review or Confirmed only; in accordance with the relevant classification process
- iv. Will identify a swimmers authorised classification details as recorded in the National Swimming Classification Master List
- v. Must be presented to meet officials prior to MC competition, unless otherwise stated
- vi. Swimmers not holding a Classification Card or whose class cannot be verified in the National Classification Master List must compete under the swimming rules with no exceptions
- vii. Will be valid for a period of three years or until the date of a swimmers classification review (if applicable)

7.3. The SAL Classification Card will carry the following information:

- i. Athlete Name
- ii. SAL member number
- iii. SAL "Meet Manager" ID
- iv. Classifications
- v. National Sport Class Status (if applicable)
- vi. Rule Exceptions
- vii. Card Expiry Date

8. International Classification

8.1. SAL will identify and endorse athletes at its discretion to be nominated for IPC international Licencing and Classification.

8.2. SAL in cooperation with the APC will manage all aspects of the IPC International Licencing and Classification process for identified athletes.

9. Dispute Resolution Process

9.1. 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 classification Policy, Rules and Regulations described in this policy.

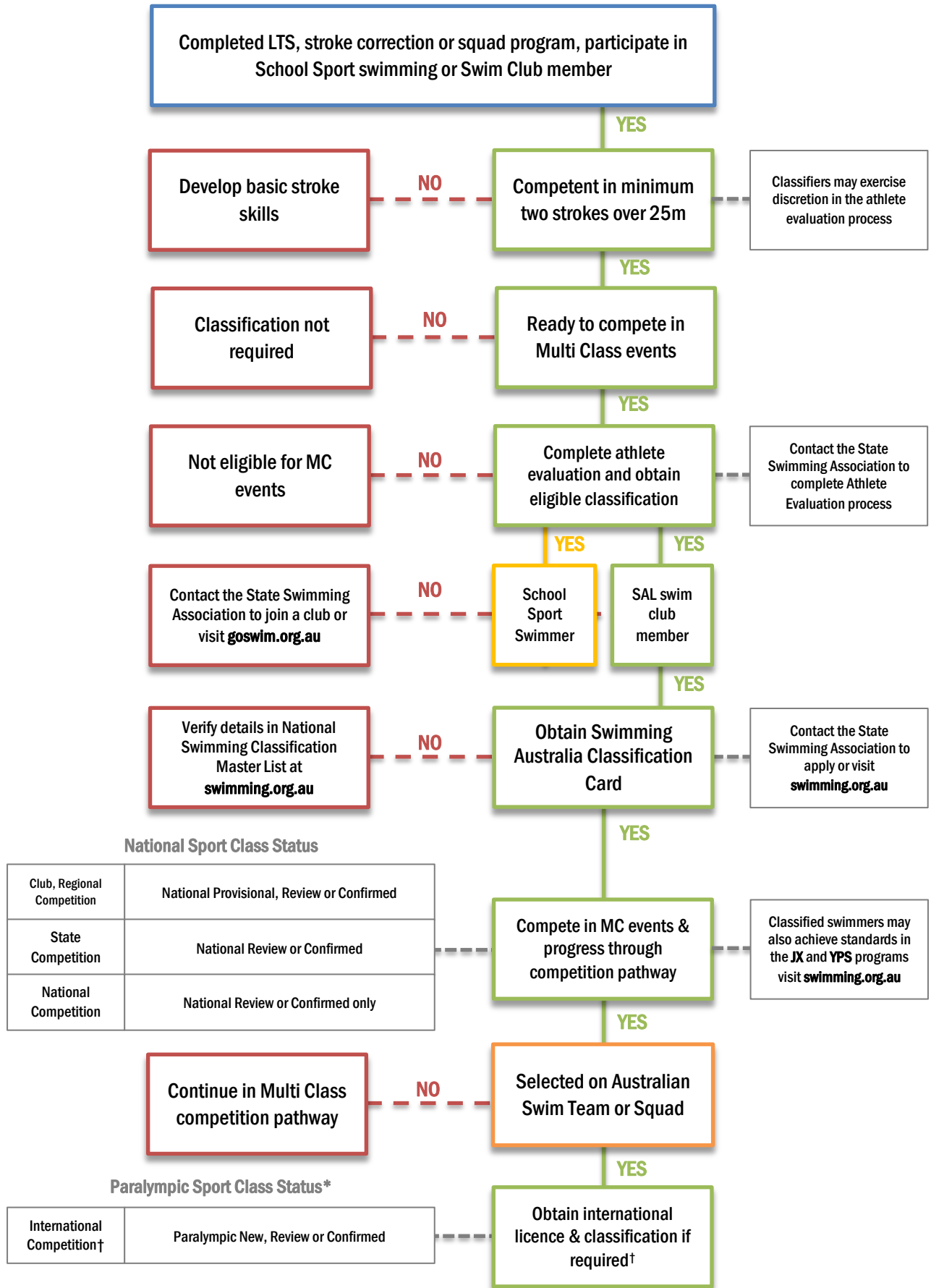
9.2. All disputes directed to SAL will be treated as confidential. Parties to the dispute shall not disclose information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity outside those directly required to assist in the resolution which may include but is not limited to:

- Swimmer and their appointed representative(s)
- Certified Classifiers and/or Eligibility Officer
- SAL Employees
- Classification System Partner Representative(s)
- Sport, medical or scientific consultants engaged for the purpose of the dispute resolution
- Legal counsel

10. Additional Information

- Classification Procedures Manual
- [Get Classified](#)
- [Guide to Conducting Multi Class Competition](#)
- Multi Class Point Score Guidelines
- [Swimming Rules](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Member Welfare Policy](#)
- [Child Welfare Policy](#)
- [Junior Sports Policy](#)

APPENDIX A – CLASSIFICATION PATHWAY



*Applies to classes 1-14 only. †SAL manages the process and will endorse identified athletes to undertake international classification.

APPENDIX B – SWIMMING CODES OF EXCEPTION

Starts

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

During Swimming

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

APPENDIX C – NATIONAL SPORT CLASS STATUS

| Sport Class Status | Applicable Classes | Level of competition | Athlete Evaluation Process | Conditions |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Provisional (PrR) | 1-10 11-13 | Club/School Regional/District State* | Provisional National Athlete Evaluation, either remote or face to face without being reviewed by a full classification panel. | <p>- Provides an indication of class only</p> <p>- Valid for 12months only</p> <p>- Not eligible for records, rankings or team selections</p> <p>*Determined by the State or Territory Swimming Association, entry requirements for each competition should be checked.</p> |
| National Review (NR) | 1-10 11-13 | Club/School Regional/District State National | National Athlete Evaluation, conducted face to face by a full classification panel consisting of appropriate accredited classifiers. | <p>- Classification panel may allocate a review period</p> <p>- Swimmer is required to undergo athlete evaluation again in the future in situations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New athlete to the sport • Borderline classifications • Fluctuating disability • Athlete has not reached physical maturation • Athlete has sustained their condition less than 2 years previously <p>- Swimmer cannot be reviewed by a classification panel until their allocated review date, unless the classification rules change, or in other exceptional circumstances</p> |
| National Confirmed (NC) | 1-10 11-13 14 15 16 | Club Regional State National | <p><u>Classes 1-10 & 11-13:</u> National Athlete Evaluation, conducted face to face by a full classification panel consisting of appropriate accredited classifiers.</p> <p><u>Classes 14, 15 & 16:</u> National Athlete Evaluation by completing the relevant official Eligibility Application Form and reviewed by appropriate eligibility officers endorsed by Classification System Partners.</p> | <p>- Swimmer cannot be reviewed by a classification panel again, unless the classification rules change, or in other exceptional circumstances</p> |

For more detail please refer to the relevant Rules and Policies referred to in section 2.1 of the SAL Classification Policy.