

Provisional (State) Classification for Athletes with a Physical Impairment

Information for Athletes, Teachers & Parents:

What is classification?

Did you know that school-aged kids (8 years or older) with an eligible physical impairment can run in their school athletics carnivals with a classification? Classification involves an assessment of impairments and how this affects running, throwing and jumping for athletics. A class describes the severity of the impairment and how it impacts on sports performance. People with similar impairments should compete against each other to make competition fair.

Eligible physical impairments are hypertonia (e.g. Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury), ataxia (e. Cerebral palsy), athetosis (e.g. Cerebral palsy), impaired muscle power (e.g. Spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy), impaired range of motion (e.g. Arthrogyrosis), limb deficiency (e.g. Amputation, dysmelia), leg length difference (e.g. Trauma to growth plate) and short stature. Please note there is an established minimal impairment criteria that a child must meet to be eligible.

What is the process?

Any Physiotherapist, General Practitioner, Paediatrician or other neuro specialist can complete the provisional classification form that can be found on the Athletics Australia website (link listed below).

A trained classifier will then consider the completed assessment findings and allocate a class. This class allows the child to compete up to and including state level competition, so it is perfect for getting started. If a child wants to pursue higher level competition, they will be classified by a formal panel at a state or national level event.

The family will be emailed with a summary sheet that highlights the child's class. Once a child is classified, they can compete in their school athletics events against all their classmates. The school PE teacher should be made aware that the child is classified. They should record the child's results (times/distances). The PE teacher can then liaise with their local school district to decide if the child will progress to further competition.

Feel free to get in touch with the Para Athletics Coordinator from Athletics Australia for more guidance and support - email: classification@athletics.org.au. Phone: 03 8646 4550. Alternatively, all information regarding classification is listed on our website:

Get Classified:

<http://www.athletics.com.au/Para-athletics#GetClassified>

Athletics Australia also offer free National Classification opportunities held around Australia, during the Summer of Athletics season. Please view Classification Calendar on our website:

<http://www.athletics.com.au/Participate/Multi-Class-Athletics/Classification-Calendar>

Classification Master list for all athletes with an athletics classification:

<http://www.athletics.com.au/Participate/Multi-Class-Athletics/Classification-Masterlist>

