CLASSIFICATION
General information for Athletes

What is Classification?
In sport, classification exists so that athletes compete in fair and equal competition.

Paralympic classification is an assessment process that groups athletes according to how their disability impacts on their sport.

Athletes compete against others with similar levels of impairment, so that the athletes who succeed do so on the basis of athletic performance.

How do I get classified in Australia?
Classification is a formal assessment process and is conducted in line with international rules. Classification is different for each sport. There are many opportunities available for athletes to access classification in Australia.

There are three levels of classification that can occur in Australia
- Provisional Classification
- National Classification
- International Classification

Sports and classification pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Level</th>
<th>Competition Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Classification</td>
<td>Local and regional competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Classification</td>
<td>State competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Classification</td>
<td>National competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Classification</td>
<td>International Competition</td>
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</table>
  - World Championships
  - Paralympic Games

Australian Provisional Classification
Provisional classification is generally aimed at athletes competing in club, school or regional level competition. It is a sport specific assessment that is conducted where a national face to face classification is unavailable due to:
- An athlete living in a regional or remote areas, or
- An athlete not having access to a sport specific classification panel

Do I need to get classified?
If you are competing against others with a disability in Paralympic sport you will generally need to hold some form of classification.

Each competition will advise of what level of classification is required as part of the event entry process.

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In the provisional classification process, a local health professional provides the required assessments for a certified classifier to allocate a classification.

All provisional classifications are an indication only, valid for 12 months or until the athlete attends a National face to face classification.

If you disagree with a Provisional Classification, the usual process would be to present for a face to face classification assessment.

**Australian National Classification**

National Classification is a sport specific assessment that is required for athletes competing in state or national level championships.

- Athletes with a physical or vision impairment: face to face assessment.
- Athletes with an intellectual disability: paperwork process.

National Classification generally involves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Assessment of impairment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre competition assessment</td>
<td>Assessment of event specific skills, eg running &amp; jumping, swimming strokes, ball skills, snow-skiing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review in competition</td>
<td>Observation and assessment of sports specific movement in competition</td>
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</table>

**International Classification**

Athletes who are selected to represent Australia at international level competition will be required to attend international classification.

Where do I go for further information?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Website and contact details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Paralympic Committee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.paralympic.org.au">www.paralympic.org.au</a> + 61 2 9704 0500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Federations (for the sports)</td>
<td>Visit the sports pages on <a href="http://www.paralympic.org.au">www.paralympic.org.au</a> for links to each National Federation (for example Athletics Australia link is on the athletics page)</td>
</tr>
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