



## Para Athletics National Classification 2020:

Classification provides a structure for competition. Athletes competing in para sports have an impairment that leads to a competitive disadvantage. Consequently, a system is put in place to minimize the impact of impairments on sport performance and to ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This system is called classification.

Classification determines who is eligible to compete in a para-sport and then groups the eligible athletes into sport classes according to their activity limitation in a certain sport.

*The aim is that each class should consist of athletes who have impairments that cause approximately the same amount of activity limitation in the key athletic disciplines – running, wheelchair racing, jumps and throws.*

Source: [IPC Explanatory guide to Paralympic classification Sept 2015](#)

Classification is performed at entry to the competition stream and each time a para athlete competes at a higher level of competition (i.e. national and international). \*Additional Evaluation session may be required based on several factors, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete has only recently entered competitions; has a fluctuating and/or progressive impairment(s) that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.

Classification is conducted by trained personnel that have undergone education and certification as specified in the sport rules for classification.

Not all athletes who have a disability are eligible for classification. In order to be eligible to compete in Para athletics, an athlete must have at least one of the 10 eligible impairments and meet the Minimum Eligibility Criteria outlined in the [WPA Classification Rules & Regulations](#).

Para athletics classification is not intended to be inclusive, and therefore there will be athletes who do not fit into the classification system. If an athlete is deemed 'not eligible' or 'not classifiable,' it does not mean that they do not have a disability, however they won't be able to compete in Para athletics.

Athlete evaluation will take place prior to competition. Depending on the type of impairment, some athletes may undergo a technical observation and may be observed during competition. If an athlete is required to complete an Observation in Competition Assessment, it will take place during First Appearance. First Appearance is the first time an athlete competes in an event.

The following athletes will be required to attend classification prior to competing:

- Para athletes attending the Canadian Championships for the first time and DO NOT have an international classification.
- Para athletes who have a national review status classification



Athletes will be evaluated according to their physical, intellectual, or visual function in athletics. Depending on the nature of impairment, athletes will either undergo physical, psychological, or visual examinations.

At the Canadian National Championships, there will be a Physical Impairment Classification panel to classify athletes with physical impairments. Intellectual and Visual Classification Panels will not be present at the Canadian Championships. Athletes wishing to undergo Intellectual or Visual Classification should contact Patricia Roney ([Patricia.Roney@athletics.ca](mailto:Patricia.Roney@athletics.ca)).

All Para athletes will be required to:

- Complete the [registration](#) to compete at the Canadian Championships and request classification
- Obtain a current AC membership (done through your provincial branch)
- Obtain a 2020 WPA license and – [click here for instructions](#)
- Submit completed Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF) for the relevant impairment type and supporting medical documentation 6 weeks prior to classification (May 13<sup>th</sup> 2020) - send to Kristine Deacon [kdeacon@athletics.ca](mailto:kdeacon@athletics.ca)

The classification schedule will be posted as soon as possible after the entry deadline closes. Classification will take place on **June 24 at Claude-Robillard Complex**.

Athletes undergoing classification at Canadian Championships are required to:

- Appear at the classification room at their allotted time, warmed-up and ready to undertake typical movements for their event.
- Bring photo identification and all of their sport equipment (gloves, strapping, throwing frames, racing chairs, etc.) to classification for proper assessment.
- Have one person, who is familiar with the athlete's impairment/medical history, accompany them at the time of classification (i.e. coach, parent, etc)

Classification results will be posted (15-30 minutes) following observation assessments, which occur after their first event appearance.

Any questions regarding National classification can be directed to Para Performance Manager Sarah Black, [Sarah.Black@athletics.ca](mailto:Sarah.Black@athletics.ca) or Para Medical Lead, Patricia Roney [Patricia.Roney@athletics.ca](mailto:Patricia.Roney@athletics.ca)