



CLASSIFICATION PROCESS FOR SWIMMING WA

For a swimmer to be eligible to participate in competitive Swimming WA and Swimming Australia events, the swimmer must be classified.

There are five categories;

- **Intellectual (S14)**
IQ of less than 75
- **Deaf (S15)**
At least 55db loss of hearing in the better ear (three tone frequency average of 500, 1000, and 2000 hertz).
- **Visually Impaired (S11-S13)**
Poor light acuity to total blindness
- **Transplant**
Organ or bone marrow
- **Functional (S1 to S10)**
Locomotor disability eg: cerebral palsy, amputee, dysmelia.

For an 'Intellectual Disability Classification' the process involves:

The athlete to become a member of the 'Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability' (AUSRAPID), to become a member phone: (03) 57627494.

For a 'Deaf Classification' the process involves:

An audiogram of both ears, by your general practitioner.

For a 'Visually Impaired Disability Classification' the process involves:

The athlete must become a member of the 'Australian Blind Sports Federation' (ABSF). The contact organisation in Western Australia is the 'Association for the Blind of WA', who are the State body of the 'Australian

Blind Sports Federation'. Once they have become a member of the 'Association for the Blind of WA' they will be a member of the 'Australian Blind Sports Federation', which is a prerequisite for the Swimming WA Visually Impaired Disability Classification.

To become a member of the 'Association for the Blind of WA' phone: (08) 93118202. Membership to this organisation is an annual fee of \$11.

The classification process includes athletes having an official 'International Blind Sports Association' (IBSA) eyesight classification card complete. The 'Association for the Blind of WA' will send the card on request. Athletes will need to attain an 'International Blind Sports Association' (IBSA) classification. For this classification athletes will need to take a IBSA eyesight classification card to an appointment with their local ophthalmologist for completion.

For a 'Transplant Disability Classification' the process involves:

Athletes need to provide Swimming WA with a letter from your general practitioner or specialist, confirming their transplant, this includes bone marrow transplants.

For a 'Functional Classification' the process involves three parts:

Bench Test: this is performed by a doctor or a physiotherapist familiar with the test

Water Test: a technical test usually performed by a technical specific person

Observation: this will only occur during major championships i.e. nationals

To be classified you must meet all application requirements.

The ultimate purpose to be classified is to provide an opportunity for the vast array of disabilities to compete in a category of similar ability.

Not all disabilities, although 'legally' disabled are included in the system guidelines, for example, disabilities based on pain, respiratory conditions, cardiac abnormalities and the level of the disability may not fit the system.

If the swimmer cannot be classified, they are ineligible to compete as a Swimmer with Disability (SWD) and must therefore compete as able-bodied.

Classification Status

There are different levels of classification: a Swimming WA classification will provide you with a National 'N' status, which allows you to compete in Swimming WA and Swimming Australia competitions.

To gain a permanent International 'P' status, the swimmer must be classified by international classifiers, medical and technical.

Swimming WA Classification process

1. Athlete/ Guardian enquires to Swimming WA about being classified
2. Swimming WA send letter and application pack
3. Athlete sends completed pack back to Swimming WA
4. Once all forms are completed Swimming WA sends the application to Swimming Australia
5. Swimming Australia informs Swimming WA if the athlete's application has been successful or unsuccessful.
6. Swimming Australia sends the ID card to the athlete and information to the International Paralympic Committee.

- When you receive an enquiry for a classification please pass my information on, and I will send out a letter with all relevant information for that disability and an application form.
- I also keep a database of our disability athletes to keep them informed of different opportunities.

For further information Please contact Laura Reid, Swimming WA Development Officer on 9328 4599.

