

# Athletes with a Vision Impairment

## Introduction

This information is intended to be a laypersons guide to classification for athletes who are blind or have a vision impairment. It is not to be used to make classification or athlete selection decisions. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the classification rules of the sport, which are determined by the International Federation for the sport. Sport Classification Rules change from time to time, and this guide represents the classification system current at the date of publication.

### What is the Minimal Disability?

In order to be eligible to compete in a sport as an athlete with a disability, it is not sufficient simply to have a disability. Specific and objective testing is used to determine whether a person's disability results in sufficient limitation of their ability to perform the core elements of the relevant sport. This is different for each sport and is termed the minimal disability criteria.

Only authorised classifiers are able to determine whether a person meets the minimal disability criteria for a particular sport.

This information sheet provides a rough guide to the criteria – it should not be used to provide athletes with advice regarding eligibility.

Disability Group	Minimal Disability – GUIDE ONLY
<b>Vision Impaired</b>	<p>Athletes must have at least one of the following impairments, resulting from disease/disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impairment of the eye structure;</li> <li>• impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways;</li> <li>• impairment of the visual cortex of the central brain.</li> </ul> <p>Visual acuity that is less than or equal to LogMAR = 1.00 (6/60) and/or the visual field is less than a diameter of 40 degrees.</p> <p>All classifications are allocated from the best eye with best corrected vision.</p>



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# Classification

## Classification Information Sheet

### Vision Impaired Classes

Class	Examples - GUIDE ONLY
<b>Vision Impaired (IBSA classes)</b>	
<b>B1</b>	Generally athletes have a range from no light perception in either eye to light perception. Athletes generally have an inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.  Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60.
<b>B2</b>	Visual acuity below 2/60 and/or the visual field of less than a diameter of 10 degrees.  LogMar 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive)
<b>B3</b>	Visual acuity ranges from 2/60 – 6/60, and/or a visual field that is constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees.  LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive)

### Sport specific classes (converted from B class).

Sport	B Class	Sport Specific Class
<b>Athletics</b>	B1	T/F 11
	B2	T/F 12
	B3	T/F 13
<b>Swimming</b>	B1	S 11
	B2	S 12
	B3	S 13
<b>Alpine and Nordic Skiing</b>	B1	B1
	B2	B2
	B3	B3
<b>Cycling</b>	B1 – B3	BVI (tandem)
<b>Equestrian</b>	B1	Grade 3
	B2	Grade 4
<b>Goalball</b>	B1 – B3	All players are required to wear a blindfold
<b>Rowing</b>	B1-B3	LTA –VI (B1-B3). Class - All VI rowers are required to wear a blindfold
<b>Sailing</b>	B1	B1
	B2	B2
	B3	B3

### Non Paralympic Sports utilise the IBSA system (B1-B3)

### National Classification

Classification is based on an assessment by a certified APC VI classifier. These are Ophthalmic Professionals (Ophthalmologist, Orthoptist, Optometrist). National Classifications are usually allocated a review period, depending on the nature of the athletes vision impairment.

## Classification Information Sheet

The following process should be followed:

<p><b>Step 1</b></p>	<p><b>For Paralympic Sports:</b> Athlete contacts the APC or their National Federation (or state body) for details of how to arrange a sports classification and to obtain a National Medical Screening form. Classifier contact details are available from the <a href="#">APC Development Co-ordinators</a> in each state.</p> <p><b>For Non Paralympic Sports:</b> Athletes for <u>non</u> Paralympic Sports should contact their state Blind Sports Associations to obtain a classification.</p>
<p><b>Step 2</b></p>	<p>Athlete must compile appropriate medical documentation from a registered ophthalmologist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National VI Medical Screening form must be completed by a registered ophthalmologist prior to face to face classification.</li> <li>• If the athlete already has a separate report from their ophthalmologist, this information may be used for remote provisional classification or submitted instead of the VI Medical Screening form.</li> </ul> <p>The athlete bring the completed VI Medical Screening form (or report) each time they are classified. An athlete cannot be classified unless they provide the information required at the time of classification.</p>
<p><b>Step 3</b></p>	<p>The following two options may be made available to the Paralympic athlete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Face to Face Classification</u>. An athlete may attend classification with an APC certified National VI classifier. A National Classification will be obtained through this process. This is the most preferred method for classification. An athlete must bring a completed VI screening form from an Ophthalmologist each time they are classified.</li> <li>• <u>Remote Provisional Classification</u>. An athlete may visit their local Ophthalmic Professional to fill in the relevant provisional classification forms. This form is then reviewed by an APC certified VI Classifier who will allocate a <u>provisional</u> classification. In order to obtain a National classification, athletes must present for face to face classification with a certified National classifier.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 4</b></p>	<p>Classification outcomes must be provided to the APC in order for the classification to be officially valid and recognised. This will be shared and recorded in a central database held by the national sports federation and the APC. The athlete will receive a copy of the classification from the APC VI classifier at the time of classification.</p>



## Classification Information Sheet

### Further Information

#### APC Classification Program

E-mail: [Classification@paralympic.org.au](mailto:Classification@paralympic.org.au)

Tel: +61 2 9704 0500

#### Australian Paralympic Committee Website

[www.paralympic.org.au](http://www.paralympic.org.au)

#### International Paralympic Committee

[www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

#### Blind Sports Australia

[www.blindsports.com.au](http://www.blindsports.com.au)

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