

Preparation for International PI Classification

This document is for athletes with a physical impairment who are seeking International Classification as a part of qualification preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2019 WPA Championships, and the 2019 WPA Junior Championships.

What is International Classification?

To compete internationally, athletes require an International Classification.

International Classification is managed by World Para Athletics (WPA) and is held in conjunction with selected WPA approved competitions. Athletes are classified by a panel of international classifiers (a minimum of 2 classifiers).

For an Australian Athlete to be considered to progress to International Classification, he/she must have a current National Classification.

What occurs at International Classification?

Classification for athletics typically includes 3 components – Physical, Technical and Observation assessments.

Classification component	Details
Physical Assessment	Assessment of physical impairment, depending on type of impairment. Examples of tests are measurements of range of movement, muscle strength, spasticity, limb length.
Technical Assessment	Assessment of sport related tasks for the relevant track and/or field events
Observation in Competition	Athlete is viewed whilst competing in the relevant track and/or field events

Who needs to present for WPA International Classification in 2018?

Athletes who hold the following sport class level and status will be required to attend international classification prior to the commencement of international competition in 2018:

- International New (*this applies to athletes who have not been classified internationally, including National Review and National Confirmed athletes*)
- International Review (*with no review year*)
- International Review (*with fixed review year 2017 or 2018*)

Athletics Australia will work with the Australian Paralympic Committee to identify and prepare athletes for international classification.

Your previous classification paperwork and medical diagnostic reports will be shared between the APC, AA and selected PI classifiers to assess what you may require as a part of your International Classification. If you do not wish for this occur, please email Steve Caddy (steve.caddy@athletics.org.au) by Friday 24th November 2017.

AA Requirements

To present for International Classification, athletes are required to provide the completed WPA PI Medical Diagnostics Form and provide evidence of their impairment.

- Without this information an athlete will not be placed onto a schedule for international level classification.
- This medical documentation must be within the last 12 months.
- You may be provided with a supporting letter for your specialist from AA/APC.

Your completed PI Medical Diagnostic form and supporting evidence must be provided back to Athletics Australia by **Monday 8th January 2018**.

Athlete Requirements

1. PI Medical Diagnostic Form

Please arrange for the PI Medical Diagnostics Form to be completed by your specialist and ensure testing is done to provide supporting evidence of your physical impairment.

Information on the PI Medical Diagnostics form must clearly outline your diagnosis and level of impairment. If you have any questions about this form, please contact Steve Caddy as soon as possible.

2. Additional medical diagnostic evidence of physical impairment

All athletes must provide additional relevant medical reports from their specialist to support the PI Medical Diagnostic form.

Athletes with the following impairments/diagnosis, or with a complex condition or multiple impairments are also requested to provide additional relevant medical documentation including:

Impairment type / Diagnosis	Details
Neurological impairments (eg Cerebral Palsy, Acquired Brain Injury)	Documentation from neurologist detailing condition and impairment (ataxia, hypertonia, athetosis), surgeries, all medications used and recent/future treatments (such as botox). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified Ashworth Scale scores are to be provided for all athletes.
Limb deficiency	XRays are to be provided for relevant joints for athletes who have an amputation or dysmelia through ankle, knee, wrist or elbow joint
Spinal cord injury or damage	Reports from rehabilitation specialists detailing date of injury, how the injury occurs, extent of fixation (if applicable) and any subsequent surgeries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASIA Scale test results are to be provided for athletes with a spinal injury.
Short Stature	Documentation from endocrinologist, rehabilitation consultant or orthopaedic specialist which confirms diagnosis and details growth curves.
Multiple Sclerosis	Brain and Spine MRI and lab results may be required to confirm diagnosis along with a report to clarify the athletes condition and if its stable or fluctuating. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified Ashworth Scale scores are to be provided for athletes with hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis.

If you have any questions about what additional documentation is required, please contact Steve Caddy as soon as possible.

What happens if an athlete doesn't have the required diagnostic information?

Without all the appropriate information, WPA or a PI classification panel may:

1. Decide not to classify an athlete as they do not have all the requested verification information, an athlete cannot compete in international level competition
2. Provide the athlete with a Classification Not Complete, meaning the athlete has not finalised all aspects of classification and cannot compete in international level competition.

Timeframes

AA provides PI Medical Diagnostics form and outlines requirements to athletes.	November 2017
Athlete ensures they have an IPC License	December 2017
Athlete arranges specialist appointment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the PI Medical Diagnostics form completed • Have additional tests results as required by the paperwork 	November/December 2017
AA provides information regarding competition in which PI International Classification is offered	November 2016
Completed PI Medical diagnostics form to be provided back to AA	8th January 2018
PI Medical Diagnostics reviewed with APC and additional information followed up as necessary	January 2017
Athlete enter into the event in which classification is being conducted	In line with competition entry deadline
Preparation with program staff and identification of athlete representative	1 month prior to the identified event
AA provides athletes with the classification schedule to present for classification	1 week prior to identified event
Athlete attends Classification	1-2 days prior to identified event

WPA International Classification Rules

Please refer to WPA Classification Rules and Regulations;

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/rules-and-regulations>

Contact

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