

Para-athletics Junior Program - Underpinning Systems

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May - June - July - August - September
Competition	State Primary School Championships State Secondary School Championships State All Schools Championships	National Primary Schools Championships	Australian All Schools Championships	Club & Interclub Competition SDU Series (WT&R)	Club & Interclub Competition	Open State Athletics Championships Australian Junior Championships	Australian Open Athletics Championships	Cross Country Member Association - Winter Series
Classification	Member Association Opportunities	National Classification @ National Primary Schools Championships Member Association Opportunities	National Classification @ National All Schools Championships	Member Association Opportunities	Member Association Opportunities	International Classification TBC + National Classification @ Australian Junior Championships Classifier Training		Member Association Opportunities
Junior High Performance Program	Performance Squad - Module 3	DTE Monitoring Satelite DTE Monitoring	Performance Squad & Shadow Squad Selection	Performance Squad - Module 1 Sub Elite Identification	DTE Monitoring Satelite DTE Monitoring Sub Elite Identification	Brisbane Training Camp International Classification Management - Identified Talent	DTE Monitoring	Performance Squad - Module 2 DTE Monitoring Satelite DTE Monitoring

*Competition Calendars may vary between States, NT most significantly - Please contact your Member Association for accurate details.

Australian Classification System

The Australian Athletics Classification System provides a structure for competition for athletes with a disability. Athletes with disabilities have an impairment in body structures and functions that can lead to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently, criteria are put in place to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for athletes who are able-bodied. Classification is used to group athletes of similar physical, intellectual or sensory impairment into groups defined by the degree of activity limitation related to the impairment and/or specific to the tasks in the sport. In Australia, classification is delivered as a free service by Athletics Australia and it's Member Associations, designed to ensure a fair environment for competition at all levels. Classification is the Para-athletics entry point. Please contact your State Athletics Association for more information.

International Classification

Athletics Australia in partnership with the APC will, subject to approval from the IPC, host International Classification in conjunction with an Australian competition each year. This is the highest standard of classification available in Paralympic sport and will be conducted by internationally accredited classifiers.

Para-athletics Competition Pathway

The Australian athletics season comprises of an entirely aligned able-bodied and Para-athletics competition pathway. Which includes the Australian All Schools in December, Australian Junior Championships in March and Australian Open Championships. 2014 will see the first Para-Athletics events included in the Australia All Schools Athletics Championships, with this Australia has now completely aligned able-bod and para-athlete pinnacle events.

Junior High Performance Program

A new program, the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program has been introduced to fill an identified gap in the pathway. The program strives to;

- Build identified talented athletes knowledge and understanding of the behaviours and commitment required to be an elite athlete.
- Provide a progressive learning pathway that promotes behaviours in the daily training environment that enhance elite performance.
- Set up a network of support around identified talented athletes to assist in the transition from junior to senior athletics.
- Place junior athletes on Paralympic Games & IPC World Athletics Championships teams.

Sub-Elite Identification

As is the nature of Paralympic sport, it is not uncommon for athletes to enter the pathway at different points. Identified athletes are encouraged to nominate for IPC licensing and present for international classification in March. By completing these processes, an athlete if found eligible will have performances at sanctioned meets recognised and thus be available for team selection.