



PREPARATION FOR INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT (II) INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

2021

This document is for athletes with an intellectual impairment who are seeking International Classification as a part of qualification preparation for WPA Championships and Paralympic Games

What is International Classification?

Classification is a system that has been put in place to minimise 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. Classification determines who is eligible to compete in Para Athletics and it groups the eligible athletes in sport classes according to their impairment and activity limitation.

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.

Australian Athletics reserves the right to use its absolute discretion when nominating athletes for international classification. Athletes will be prioritised based on their recent performances*, performance progression* and likelihood of international representation within two years.

*Athlete performances in Paralympic pathway events will be prioritised (Shot Put, Long Jump, 400m and 1500m)

What occurs at International Classification?

Classification for athletics typically includes three components – Cognitive, Technical and Observation assessments.



Classification component	Details
Cognitive Assessment	Assessment of cognitive impairment using a battery of tests. This includes computer and physical cognitive tests.
Technical Assessment	Assessment of sport specific tests for the relevant event – 400m, 1500m, Shot Put, Long Jump
Observation in Competition	Assessment of athlete when competing in relevant event - 400m, 1500m, Shot Put, Long Jump

Who needs to present for WPA International Classification?

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

- 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 prior to or in the current year*)

To check your current International Classification Status please visit the following website:

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/master-list>

Or alternatively contact Steve Caddy – steve.caddy@athletics.org.au

Any paperwork collected regarding your international classification will be shared between Paralympics Australia, AA and selected 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).

What happens if I already have a WPA Athletics II classification for T20 or F20 and I am changing events?



- Athletes who are currently classified as a T20 or F20 and wish to change the events they compete in must undergo International Classification for the relevant event.

The only exception is athletes who hold a current T20 confirmed 1500m classification who wish to be classified in the 400m (or vice versa). These athletes will NOT be required to go through international classification again, unless otherwise advised by WPA.

AA Requirements

To attend International Classification, athletes are required to fulfil the following requirements:

1. VIRTUS Primary Eligibility Check and masterlist

This can be a time-consuming process, SIA and AA recommend beginning this process as early as practically possible to ensure no challenges or delays when registering for International Classification.

T/F 20 athletes must be registered on the VIRTUS Classification Masterlist;

<https://sites.google.com/inas.org/ii1masterlist/home>

If an athlete is not already on the VIRTUS Classification masterlist, the VIRTUS Athlete Eligibility Application needs to be completed by athletes.

Full Eligibility is required for VIRTUS Regional and World Championship events and is a requirement of WPA sports classification.

Virtus eligibility must be applied for through Sport Inclusion Australia. Application forms and guidance notes are available at:

www.sportinclusionaustralia.org.au/eligibility

Any questions about the VIRTUS eligibility process should be directed to Sport Inclusion Australia. Contact - mail@siasport.org

If an athlete has completed full eligibility and is already on the VIRTUS masterlist in a different sport, they will need to request to add Athletics as a sport.



Any questions about adding a sport to the VIRTUS masterlist should be directed to Sport Inclusion Australia. Contact – mail@siasport.org

2. WPA Athletics TSAL Questionnaire for athletes with an Intellectual Impairment

Athletes must arrange for their personal coach to complete the TSAL Questionnaire. The TSAL must have been completed no more than 12 months prior to the date of the upcoming international classification.

3. Obtain a WPA License for the season

For WPA licensing please see this link – <https://www.athletics.com.au/para-athletics-high-performance/wpa-licensing/>

Your listing on the VIRTUS Masterlist, completed TSAL questionnaire and licensing documentation must be provided back to Australian Athletics by December, in the year prior to classification.

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

Without all the appropriate information, AA, WPA or the II Classification panel may:

1. Not register the athlete for international level classification with WPA.
2. Decide not to classify an athlete as they do not have all the requested verification information. The athlete will be ineligible to compete at international level competition.
3. Provide the athlete with a Classification Not Complete, meaning the athlete has not finalised all aspects of classification. The athlete will be ineligible to compete at international level competition.

Timeframes

The below time frames are based on the typical timeline of WPA confirming the International Classification Calendar and the Australian competition likely to be assigned with international classification.

This timeline is subject to change when the International Classification is confirmed for the following year.



AA provides TSAL Questionnaire form for athletes with an Intellectual Impairment and outlines requirements to athletes.	October
Athlete checks if they are on the VIRTUS Masterlist (and if not currently on the Masterlist completes the VIRTUS requirements through Sport Inclusion Australia)	October/November
AA provides information regarding competition in which II International Classification is offered.	November
Athlete arranges TSAL to be completed by coach.	November
Athlete be listed on the VIRTUS Masterlist.	December
Completed TSAL Questionnaire form to be provided back to AA.	Early December
Athlete arranges WPA License through AA.	December (Following confirmation of listing on VIRTUS Masterlist)
Athlete to enter 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 Classification Rules

Please refer to WPA Classification Rules and Regulations;

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

Contact

Australian Athletics Para Classification Team

classification@athletics.org.au / (03) 8646 4550