



National Classification Process for Physical Impairments

Specific to U.S. Paralympics Cycling, Swimming and Track & Field

What is Classification?

Classification provides a structure for Paralympic competition. Classification:

1. Defines who is eligible to compete in Para sport, and
2. Groups eligible athletes into sport classes according to their activity limitation

Classification systems are defined and implemented by the respective International Federation for each sport. Sport-specific sport class profiles and classification information can be found in the classification rules and regulations, which can be found on the IF's website.

Steps to get Classified

1. Compete and submit the national medical diagnostics form

Completed forms should be submitted to USOPC classification manager. The form should clearly define which of the eligible impairment(s) the athlete has and supporting documentation should be provided that verifies the underlying health condition or origin of the impairment(s). The national medical diagnosis form must be submitted prior to attending a classification evaluation.

- [National Medical Diagnosis Form](#) - Submit to USOPC Classification Manager at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org

2. Register for an event that has a national classification opportunity.

A list of all events with a national classification opportunity can be found on the respective sport's classification landing page. Website URLs are listed at the bottom of this document.

3. Attend Classification Evaluation

Classification generally takes place one to two days prior to the competition and participation in the competition is required to complete classification. The evaluation process consists of:

- a. Physical Assessment - a series of functional ability tests performed by a Medical Classifier
- b. Technical Assessment - a series of practical ability tests observed by a Technical Classifier
- c. Provisional Sport Class Allocated - Based on the results of both of the above tests, athletes are allocated a provisional sport class
- d. Observation in Competition - This will confirm or alter the provisional sport class allocation

National Classification Database

The national classification database includes all athletes in the respective sport whose classification information is on file with either the respective sport IF and/or U.S. Paralympics. Events and competitions use the national classification database to verify an athlete's sport class and sport class status. The classification database for each individual sport can be found at:

- **Cycling:** www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Cycling/Classification
- **Swimming:** www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/Athletes/Classification
- **Track & Field:** www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Track-and-Field/Classification