

Provisional (State) Classification for Athletes with a Physical Impairment

Information for Physiotherapists, General Practitioners, Paediatricians and other Neuro Specialists:

What is classification?

Did you know that kids (8 years or older) with an eligible physical impairment can run in their school athletics carnivals with a classification? Classification involves an assessment of impairments and how this affects running, throwing and jumping for athletics.

Eligible physical impairments are hypertonia (eg. Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury), ataxia (e. Cerebral palsy), athetosis (eg. Cerebral palsy), impaired muscle power (eg. Spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy), impaired range of motion (eg. Arthrogyrosis), limb deficiency (eg. Amputation, dysmelia), leg length difference (eg. Trauma to growth plate) and short stature. Please note there is an established minimal impairment criteria that a child must meet to be eligible.

What is the process?

Complete SECTION 1: The athlete (or parent guardian if under 18 year of age) completes the athlete details and agrees to the terms in the Informed Consent form in the attached.

STEP 2. Complete SECTION 2: Athletics Athlete Evaluation Sheet (Provisional Athletics Classification Form) **Any GP, Physiotherapist or specialist can complete Section 2 of the Provisional Classification form.**

You DO NOT need to complete all the pages. Only complete the relevant sections that apply to the athlete's condition. For example:

How to carry out a classification assessment for hypertonia/ ataxia/ athetosis

Pg 1: Background information

Pg 2: Get the child and parents to complete the consent form

Pg 3: Complete the top section/ athlete details; especially the email address

Pg 4: Complete the athlete personal details, training and competition history (what sports they play) and medical professional details (your details)

Pg 5: Complete the left hand side, details on the child's health condition. Do not complete the right hand side.

Pg 6: Complete the whole page. You need to complete the Ashworth Spasticity Grade and then any other hypertonia/ ataxia/ athetosis tests that add further detail to your clinical assessment of the child. For example, don't need to complete the upper extremity tests for a child with diplegia.

Pg 7: Do not complete this page.

Pg 8-9: The family can either provide a medical letter with confirmation of the health condition OR they can ask a doctor to complete pages 8-9.

Page 10: Details on how to submit the form.

What to do if the child has another physical impairment type or are complicated or you are unsure?

Have a try based on the assessment form. For example, if you are assessing a child with a spinal cord injury then you would complete the impaired muscle power assessment on page 7.



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STEP 3. Complete SECTION 3: Medical Diagnostics form. Specialist or medical doctor is to complete the medical diagnostics form.

STEP 4. Application Submission: submit application to classification@athletics.org.au

Feel free to get in touch with the Para Athletics Coordinator from Athletics Australia for more guidance and support - email: classification@athletics.org.au. Phone: 03 8646 4550.