In order to be classified:
- Students must be in an eligible disability group and meet the minimal disability criteria for their sport
- Swimmers must be able to swim 50m in all strokes competently
- Track and field athletes and cross country athletes must be competent in their chosen event/s

Once classified, students will have the opportunity, to compete and progress through the representative school sport pathway ie school, zone, region, state and national championships as long as the appropriate results are achieved.

Elite pathways exist within the school sport structure and a number of students have achieved international success following their participation in these pathways. Kurt Fearnley is one of Australia’s top Paralympic athletes who started his sporting career in school sport.

Not all students with a disability will meet the minimum disability criteria to compete in these events. These students must compete with able-bodied students.
Who needs to be classified?

There are five classification groups for students with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Paralympic Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Impairment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students with a physical disability that affects movement, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, limb loss/amputee, short stature, erbs palsy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students must have one of the following: loss of muscle power, limited ability to move a joint, limb loss (from birth or acquired), hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, short stature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with co-ordination difficulties, dyspraxia, motor planning difficulties or hypermobile joints are not eligible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Vision Impairment**     |
| • Students with low vision, from being legally blind to complete blindness. This must be as a result of an eye condition such as retinitis pigmentosa, macular dystrophy, albinism, choroideremia, nystagmus, glaucoma, optic nerve damage, and eye trauma. |
| Students must have both eyes with a visual acuity of less than 6/60 and/or visual field of less than 20 degrees. |
| Students with cortical blindness are not eligible. |

| **Intellectual Impairment** |
| • Students who have been diagnosed with an intellectual impairment, as indicated by both a full scale IQ score of 75 or less on an internationally recognized and professionally administered test and limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in communication, conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills |
| Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADD/ADHD and other learning disabilities must meet the above criteria to be eligible |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Non – Paralympic Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transplant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students who have had an organ or bone marrow transplant, are a corneal recipient, or those awaiting transplantation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students with cystic fibrosis, or on dialysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Deaf** |
| • Students with a hearing impairment, with at least 55db in the better ear as assessed by an audiologist or audiometrist |

If a student does not meet the minimal disability criteria, they are not eligible to compete in AWD events.
How does a student get classified?

Each disability category has a different classification process, which is outlined below. For more specific information follow the link to Understanding Classification

**STUDENTS WITH A PHYSICAL/FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT (Paralympic Group)**

Seek formal APC classification as soon as students decide they would like to compete. Formal classification assists event organisers and ensures easy access to participation. If formal classification is not completed, the following general principles apply:

**School and Zone competitions**
Teachers and parents can use the APC Classification Fact Sheet for that particular sport to determine a likely classification.

**Regional competitions**
Students should attend an APC recognised face to face classification day where possible. If not possible, the minimum of APC provisional classification is a requirement. Provisional classification is a process where a local medical specialist conducts an assessment that is then reviewed by a certified classifier. Students will also need medical documentation detailing their disability that is also presented to the certified classifier. Allow at least 2 months prior to the event to start the provisional process.

**State Championships**
Formal APC National Classification is required. This is obtained by attending a face to face classification either before or at the event where possible. Note: face to face classification is not offered at all state & national championships.

**National Championships**
As per state championship requirements.

**Contact**
Australian Paralympic Committee - www.paralympic.org.au or phone 02 9704 0500
Please see below section - Procedures for obtaining a classification in a Paralympic Group.

**STUDENTS WITH A VISION IMPAIRMENT (Paralympic Group)**

Seek formal APC classification as soon as students decide they would like to compete. Formal classification assists event organisers and ensures easy access to participation. If formal classification is not completed, the following general principles apply:

**School and Zone competitions**
Students with a visual acuity of less than 6/60 and/or visual field of less than 20 degrees must provide written evidence of their diagnosis, and current vision results from an ophthalmic professional.

**Regional competitions**
Students should attend an APC recognised face to face classification day where possible. If not possible, the minimum of APC provisional classification is a requirement. Provisional classification is a process where a local medical specialist conducts an assessment, that is then reviewed by a certified classifier. Students will also need medical documentation detailing their disability that is also presented to the certified classifier. Allow at least 2 months prior to the event to start the provisional process.

Approved classifiers at Vision Australia offer face to face classification in various centres in NSW.
State Championships
Students at least require an APC VI provisional classification. Students intending on competing at this level should seek to attend a face to face classification at approved APC classifier locations.

*Note: face to face classification is not currently offered at all state and national championships*

National Championships
Formal APC National Classification is required and must be obtained at a face to face classification before the event.

Contact
Australian Paralympic Committee- www.paralympic.org.au or phone 02 9704 0500.
Please see below section - Procedures for obtaining a classification in a Paralympic Group.

**STUDENTS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT (Paralympic Group)**

Formal AUSRAPID national eligibility assists event organisers and ensures easy access to competition. Formal AUSRAPID eligibility should be sought for students who are likely to progress through to state level or beyond. If formal classification is not completed, the following general principles apply:

School, Zone & Regional Championships
Students must have a Disability Confirmation form forwarded from their school counsellor along with competition entry forms that verifies their intellectual disability.

State Championships
As per School, Zone and Regional requirements.

National Championships
Formal AUSRAPID National Eligibility is required and must be obtained before the event.
Please allow at least 2 months prior to the event to start this process.

Contact
AUSRAPID - www.ausrapid.org.au or phone 03 5762 7494 for all AUSRAPID eligibility processes.

**PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING A CLASSIFICATION IN A PARALYMPIC GROUP**

1. Fill in the [Get Classified](#) form online
   or
2. Download the [APC Request for Classification](#) form and email/fax/post to:
   
   Email: classification@paralympic.org.au
   Phone: 02 9704 0500
   Fax: 02 9704 0589

   APC Development Coordinator
   PO Box 596
   Sydney Markets
   NSW 2112

*Please note: Only authorized classifiers recognised by the Australian Paralympic Committee may issue classifications. This document is based on information for students competing in school sports competition and may differ for external/club events. It is advised that you check the competition rules and regulations for events.*

Please allow at least 2 months from submitting the Request for Classification form to allow for classification.
PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING A CLASSIFICATION IN A NON-PARALYMPIC GROUP

Deaf
Deaf and hard of hearing students are required to submit a copy of their Audiogram Form which has been confirmed by their Audiologist or Audiometrist with their competition entry form.

Contact
Deaf Sports Australia - [www.deafsports.org.au/sports/participation.htm](http://www.deafsports.org.au/sports/participation.htm) or 03 9473 1154

Transplant
Students are required to submit relevant medical documentation with their competition entry form.

Contact
Transplant Australia - [www.australiantransplantgames.com/Eligibility.html](http://www.australiantransplantgames.com/Eligibility.html) or 02 9922 5400.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS / LINKS

- [Athletics](#) Classification Information Sheet
- [Swimming](#) Classification Information Sheet
- [www.paralympic.org.au](http://www.paralympic.org.au)
- [www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au)