

# CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

## FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY (CLASSES 1-10)



### The Functional Classification System

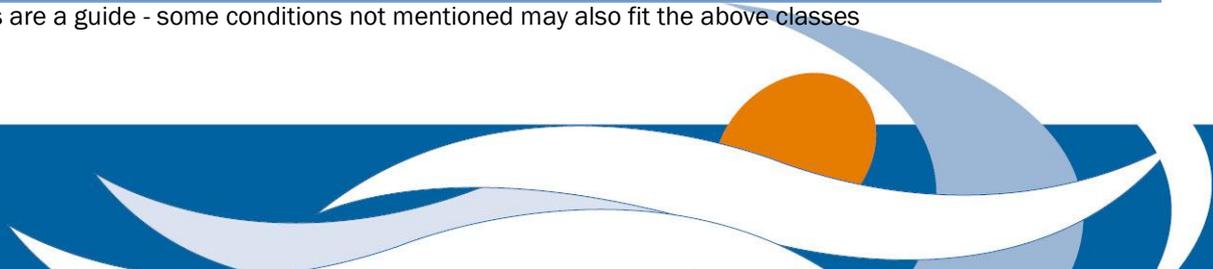
The functional classification system includes swimmers with many different disabilities such as limb loss, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury and other disabilities. Swimmers are encouraged to participate and compete in mainstream opportunities where appropriate, once classified swimmers are able to compete in Multi Class events from club level (where available) through to Australian Championships. At an international level swimmers can compete in Paralympic competition.

### Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for the Functional Classification System (FCS) are set by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). This is then applied at a national level by the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) in conjunction with Swimming Australia Ltd and a team of trained classifiers. Each swimmer is assessed through physical testing and water observations. Components such as muscle strength, movement co-ordination, joint range of movement and limb/trunk length contribute to the allocation of classes. Classes range from swimmers with most significant physical impairment (Class 1) to those with minimal impairment (class 10).

Class	Eligibility
<b>S1 SB1 SM1</b>	Typically swimmers use a wheelchair and may require assistance for their everyday needs. Swimmers may have significant coordination problems in four limbs or have no use of their legs, trunk, hands and minimal use of their shoulders only. Usually only swim on their back.
<b>S2 SB1 SM2</b>	Swimmers can generally use their arms with no use of their hands, legs or trunk or have significant co-ordination problems in 4 limbs.
<b>S3 SB2 SM3</b>	Swimmers may have reasonable arm strokes but no use of their legs or trunk; swimmers with significant coordination problems in all limbs or with major limb loss to four limbs.
<b>S4 SB3 SM4</b>	Swimmers who use their arms and have minimal weakness in their hands but have no use of their trunk or legs; swimmers with coordination problems affecting all limbs but predominantly in the legs or with limb loss to 3 limbs.
<b>S5 SB4 SM5</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands but no trunk or leg muscles; swimmers with limited coordination.
<b>S6 SB5 SM6</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands with some trunk control but no useful leg muscles; swimmers with limited coordination (usually these athletes walk); swimmers with major limb loss of 2 limbs; Short stature (< 130cm for women and 137cm for men).
<b>S7 SB6 SM7</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; limited coordination or weakness on the same side of the body or major limb loss of 2 limbs.
<b>S8 SB7 SM8</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; limb loss of 2 limbs; swimmers with the use of one arm only.
<b>S9 SB8 SM9</b>	Swimmers with severe weakness in one leg only; swimmers with slightly limited coordination; swimmers with one limb loss and are typically able to start out of the water.
<b>S10 SB9 SM10</b>	Swimmers with very minimal weakness affecting the legs; swimmers with restriction of hip joint movement; swimmers with both feet deformed or swimmers with minor limb loss of part of a limb.

Note: These examples are a guide - some conditions not mentioned may also fit the above classes



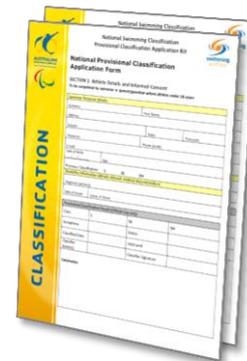
## Classification Process

### Provisional National Classification

This process has been designed to allow swimmers who do not have access to a full classification panel, to gain an indication of their classification for their specific sport. A provisional classification is allocated by a certified classifier, and is conducted in line with international classification rules for swimming.

All provisional classifications provide an indication of a classification and are only valid for a 12 month period. A swimmer may generally participate at club level, school level or local competition. A provisional class is generally not valid for state level competition. Swimmers with a provisional classification are not eligible for national rankings and records or team selections.

Contact Swimming Australia for the National Provisional Classification Application Kit.



### National Classification

The National Classification procedure includes three components:

1. Bench test
2. Water test
3. Observation during competition

This procedure is conducted by trained Classifiers (at least one medical and one technical). The swimmer must meet the minimum eligibility criteria and take part in each stage in order to be classified. Classification must be completed in your home state. To register for a classification session and get more information on the process in your state contact your state swimming association.

Once a swimmer receives an eligible classification this information is recorded in the National Classification Database managed by Swimming Australia. For further details on the swimming Functional Classification System visit the APC or the IPC Swimming websites.

### National Classification Status

All classifications are allocated a status which indicates conditions of a swimmers classification.

Sport Class Status	Description
<b>Provisional</b> PrR	Swimmer has undergone <b>Provisional National Classification</b> , either remotely or face to face, without being reviewed by a full classification panel. All provisional classifications are also allocated a <b>Review</b> status (see below). Valid for 12months.
<b>National Review</b> NR	Swimmer has undergone <b>National Classification</b> by a full Australian National classification panel, (one medical and one technical). A <b>Review</b> status is allocated in situations where a swimmer is required to undergo classification again in the future e.g. borderline classifications, new athletes to the sport, fluctuating disability, athlete is under 18 years, an athlete has sustained their condition less than 2 years previously, it is not certain that the person has cooperated fully with the classification evaluation. The classification panel may also allocate a review period.
<b>National Confirmed</b> NC	Swimmer has undergone <b>National Classification</b> by a full Australian national classification panel, (one medical and one technical). This athlete is allocated a <b>Confirmed</b> classification and does not need to be reviewed by a classification panel again, unless the classification rules change, or in other exceptional circumstances. Swimmers deemed to be “unclassifiable” are also given NC status.
<b>Not Eligible</b> NE	This swimmer is <b>not eligible</b> for Multi Class competition or other competition where classifications are required at any level of swimming.



## Classification Card

Once a swimmer receives an eligible classification and they are a current swimming club member they are entitled to apply for a Swimming Australia Classification Card. The Classification Card identifies that a swimmer has an eligible classification and outlines any exceptions to the swimming rules. Card holders are able to compete in Multi Class events and are eligible for state and national records.

To apply for a Classification card contact Swimming Australia or visit [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au).

Not a swimming club member? Visit [www.goswim.org.au](http://www.goswim.org.au) to find a club near you!



## International Level Classification

To compete at IPC sanctioned international competition swimmers must gain an IPC international classification. Typically swimmers selected to the Australian Swim Team receive this level of classification. For information regarding international level classification, visit the IPC Swimming website or contact Swimming Australia.

## Contacts

### Swimming Australia

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### International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

[www.ipc-swimming.org](http://www.ipc-swimming.org)

