

**Para Athletes (Athletes with Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments)
Classification
NZ Secondary Schools Athletics Championships
Whanganui 6-7 December 2014**

Athletes with Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments competing at the 2014 NZ Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in Whanganui 6–7 December **are required** to have a Provisional or National Classification. Classification ensures that athletes meet impairment eligibility and have an activity limitation

Athletes who **do not have** a Provisional or National Classification will need to have completed one of the Provisional Classification forms (Physical, Intellectual or Visual Impairment, whichever is the most appropriate one) available on the NZSSAA or Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) website. **This form needs to be forwarded to classification@paralympics.org.nz as soon as possible and no later than 21 November .**

Para Athletes with a **Physical Impairment only**, who do not have a National Classification, are requested to be available in Whanganui from the morning of **Friday 5 December** when you will be scheduled to attend a Classification Session. For information please refer to the PNZ Guide for Classification of Physical Impairment available on the NZSSA and PNZ websites.

Classifications and Competition

Para Athletes will have a track classification (T) and a field classification (F). The following track and field classifications relate to the following impairments.

- T11 – T13 and F11 – F13 Visual Impairment (VI)
- T20 and F20 Intellectual Impairment (II)
- T32 – T38 and F31 – F38 Cerebral Palsy (CP)
- T40 and F40 Short Stature (SS)
- T42 – T46 and F42 – F46 Amputees and Other Impairments (AO)
- T51 – T54 and F51 – F58 Wheelchair user (WC)

There will be two competition divisions, Para Athletes with Intellectual Impairment (**II**) and Para Athletes with Physical Impairment, including Para Athletes with Visual Impairment (**PI**). Within the Para Athletes with Physical Impairment division will be the 5 groups above excluding II (T20 and F20)

For the PI classification the results and placings will be calculated on a percentage of the world record for each classification. It will enable athletes with different impairments, cerebral palsy, vision, stature etc, to be fairly compared and compete for the PI medal and national title in their event/s.

The II classification will be for athletes with an intellectual impairment (cognitive impairment) rather than athletes with specific learning impairments eg difficulty with reading. Generally these athletes will be ORS funded or be potentially eligible for ORS funding.

The following events will be included: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, shot put, discus, javelin, long jump (metre mat will not be used), high jump and road race. Schools contemplating entering athletes with disabilities should check the list of Para Athlete Standards.

Please Note:

- Students with specific learning disabilities are not eligible for classification.
- Hearing Impaired athletes are not eligible for classification as physical abilities are comparable to that of their peers. However adequate provision should be made to ensure starting mechanisms are in place to allow for equal competition.

- Athletes with adequate residual vision to compete evenly with fully sighted peers will be encouraged to do so.
- Athletes with Behavioral Problems do not have a physical functional limitation compared to their peers and will be ineligible for classification.
- Some athletes may have multiple disabilities therefore teachers are to register students into the classification where the functional limitation is the greatest. For example a student may have an intellectual disability as well having di-plegic cerebral palsy severely affecting his balance and coordination – this pupil will be placed in the CP Classification. A student may also have ADHD and also an Intellectual disability - this student would be eligible for II classification.

Ages

There will be two age groups for each classification, junior (below 16) and senior (16 and above) on 31 December 2014.

It is important to note that students with a disability who are ORS funded are entitled to stay at secondary school until the age of 21. Students in this category who are over 20 on 31 Dec need to apply for entry to oe@nzssaa.org.nz .

If you require any further information on classification for Para Athletes please email:

classification@paralympics.org.nz or oe@nzssaa.org.nz