

# PARA-ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE NOTES

## NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETES WITH AN INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT



VERSION: AUGUST 2014

## Introduction

Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) is the National Sport Organisation affiliated to Inas (International Federation for Sports for Para-athletes with an Intellectual Impairment) and is responsible for managing and overseeing the eligibility process for Para-athletes with Intellectual Impairment wishing to compete in the eligible Para-sports of Para-swimming, Para-athletics and para-table tennis.

## Defining Intellectual Impairment

The Primary Eligibility Criteria used by INAS/PNZ is based upon the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD, 2010) definition of intellectual Impairment which is consistent with that of the World Health Organisation (WHO, ICD-10 and ICF, 2001), and states:

*“Intellectual Disability is a disability characterised by significant limitation both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 18”*

## Eligibility

Eligibility has been introduced to promote the growth of eligibility classification for Para-athletes with Intellectual Impairment within New Zealand.

The eligibility criteria define the minimum impairment necessary to compete as a Para-athlete with an intellectual disability.

## National Eligibility Criteria

Based upon the AAIDD definition (above), the INAS/PNZ Primary Eligibility Criteria to compete in intellectual disability sport is:

1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning.
2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.
3. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 18 years of age

**Athletes must meet all 3 elements of the criteria to be eligible for consideration for Para-sport for those with intellectual impairment.**

## Completing the Application Form

Page 1 and 2 should be completed by the athlete's representative.

Page 3 should be completed by a qualified professional, with expertise in the area of intellectual impairment.,

Page 4 should be completed by PNZ.

All sections should be completed in full as incomplete applications will be returned causing delays.

The form, together with relevant documents supporting evidence of intellectual impairment, should then be sent to Paralympics New Zealand.

## Evidence

Evidence needs to be submitted which supports a diagnosis of intellectual impairment.

Where possible this will be the results of a formal psychological assessment resulting in a diagnosis of intellectual disability

If this is not available, then the following will be accepted:

- A signed statement by a psychologist, medical doctor or specialist teacher of students with intellectual impairment which confirms a diagnosis of intellectual disability.
- Evidence that the student is on ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) because of an intellectual impairment. The student may attend a special school, a special unit at a mainstream school, or be included in a mainstream class through the support of an adapted curriculum as set out in an individual education plan. AND/OR proof of currently receiving one or more of the following services because of a diagnosis of intellectual impairment: (accommodation, employment, protection, financial support)
- Intellectual impairment must be evident during the developmental period which is from conception to 18 years of age.

## Athlete Identification

The application should include the athlete's photo

## Submitting the Application

Applications should be received by email or by post to:-

[classification@paralympics.org.nz](mailto:classification@paralympics.org.nz)

Paralympics New Zealand

Suite 2.10, Axis Building, 1 Cleveland Road,  
Parnell, Auckland 1052, New Zealand

## Storing and Using Information

PNZ will use the information submitted within the application for the purpose of determining the

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athlete's eligibility and will only share the information with the relevant partners providing events for these athletes.

## International Eligibility and Classification

Para-athletes with Intellectual Impairment, who are identified by their sport as having talent and looking to progress on an International pathway will need to go through Inas Eligibility Process

There are three (3) levels of INAS International classification eligibility for athletes with an intellectual disability.

- Level 1: Provisional International Eligibility; which permits entry to INAS Developmental Events.(Equivalent of the PNZ National Classification for Para-athletes with Intellectual Impairment)
- Level 2: Full Primary Eligibility; which permits entry to INAS Regional, World Championships and Global Games.Athlete must be on the Inas Masterlist.
- Level 3: Sport Specific Classification; which is necessary for Paralympic Sports.

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INAS governs the first two levels, but Level three is governed by the Federation for the specific sport.

## References

For more information about the definition and assessment of intellectual disability, visit:

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - [www.aaid.org](http://www.aaid.org)
- INAS Eligibility Policy - [www.inas.org](http://www.inas.org)

## Further Help and Assistance

If you have any questions or need help completing the form, then please contact [classification@paralympics.org.nz](mailto:classification@paralympics.org.nz) or phone 09 526-0760.