

Para Athletics Secondary School Sport Classification

All athletes with a Physical, Intellectual or Visual impairment wishing to compete against others with an impairment at a regional, national or international athletics event must have a Para athletics classification. Classification is a unique and integral part of all sports in the Paralympic Movement (Para Sports). Classification will determine who is eligible to compete in Para athletics and it groups the eligible athletes into sport classes according to their activity limitation in the sport.

Secondary school Para athletes who do not hold a national or international Para athletics classification must complete and submit a **Provisional Classification form** for **Physical Impairment (PI)**, **Intellectual Impairment (II)** or **Visual Impairment (VI)** when entering **regional and national** secondary school athletics championships.

Para athletes will have a track classification (T) and/or 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 | Coordination impairments (PI) |
| • T40 – 41 and F40 - 41 | Short Stature (PI) |
| • T42 – T47 and F42 – F46 | Amputees and Other Impairments (PI) |
| • T51 – T54 and F51 – F57 | Wheelchair and throwing frame user (PI) |
| • T61 – T64 and F61 – F64 | Athletes who compete using prosthetic lower limbs (PI) |
| • T71 – T72 | Frame running for coordination impairments (PI) |

Provisional classification forms are to be submitted to the Classification Coordinator at Athletics New Zealand rebecca@athletics.org.nz who will verify impairment eligibility and allocate a “provisional” class and status for all PI, II and VI athletes. This must be done **as soon as possible and no later than Monday 10 November 2025**.

Classification forms for downloading and printing are available on the NZSSAA website home page NZSSAA: New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletic Association in the Track, Field and Road Race Championships information section or on request from rebecca@athletics.org.nz .

National Classification

All athletes with an Impairment must have a National Classification to compete at the NZ Secondary Schools Track and Field Championships and be available to attend classification, **on the day prior** to the NZ Secondary Schools Championships, at the Athletics venue. Athletes will be informed, closer to the event, of what time they need to report for classification. Failure to report for classification may mean an athlete is not able to compete at that competition.

Competition

There will be one competition for all classifications. The results and placings will be calculated on a percentage of the world record or a performance standard for each classification. It will enable athletes with different impairments to compete for the same medal and national title.

The following events will be included: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 800m, 1500m, shot put, discus, javelin, long jump (metre mat not used), high jump, triple jump and road race.

T20 athletes must use blocks for all track events up to and including 400m should they wish to claim a NZSSAA, Athletics NZ or International Record. Otherwise the use of blocks is optional as it is for other impairments.

Seated Throwers will have 6 consecutive attempts with an extra minute break between attempt 3 and 4.

Ages

For track and field events there will be 2 age groups for each classification, junior (under 17) and senior (17 and over) on 31 December in the year of competition. For the road race there will be an additional Year 9 grade.

It is important to note that the 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 will be aged 20 years and over on the 31st December need to apply for entry to oe@nzssaa.org.nz.

For further information on para athletics please contact Athletics NZ Para Lead Raylene Bates at Raylene@athleticsnz.co.nz or 021895400.

For further information on Classification please contact the Athletics New Zealand Classification Coordinator, Rebecca Foulsham, at rebecca@athletics.org.nz or 021 0223 7776.