

CLASSIFICATION FOR DISABLED SWIMMERS

GUIDANCE NOTES

What is classification?

Classification is the grouping together of athletes with like abilities for the purpose of competing in sport in a fair and level playing field. It involves the swimmer in a medical test, a functional water test and observation during competition. A team of two trained classifiers conducts all this.

Who needs to be classified?

Any swimmer who wishes to compete must have a classification. In order to compete within England and Great Britain, in events that are other than disability specific events, swimmers need to have a British Swimming National classification as a minimum. Swimmers who wish to compete internationally need to have an IPC Swimming classification.

Which disabilities can be classified?

Functional – any locomotor disability

Spinal injured, including polio
Cerebral Palsy, including head injured
Amputees, including dysmelia
“Les autres” i.e. achondroplasia, multiple sclerosis, arthrogryposis

Visual impairment

Intellectual disability, learning difficulty

Which disabilities cannot be classified?

Transplants
Deaf
Diabetes
Epilepsy
Awkward Children
Developmental delay
Dyspraxia
ADD – Attention Deficit Disorder
Autistic Spectrum Disorders

How do I get my swimmers classified?

Download a classification application form
Contact the Classification Co-ordinator – Mrs Gill Hindle – 01298 214468