

Preparation for International Visual Impairment (VI) Classification

This document is for athletes with an visual impairment who are seeking International Classification as a part of qualification preparation for the 2019 WPA Championships, 2019 WPA Junior Championships and the 2020 Paralympic Games

What is International Classification?

To compete internationally, athletes require an International Classification.

International Classification is managed by World Para Athletics (WPA) and is held in conjunction with selected WPA approved competitions. Athletes are classified by a panel of international classifiers (a minimum of 2 classifiers).

For an Australian Athlete to be considered to progress to International Classification, he/she must have a current National Classification.

Athletics Australia reserves the right to use its absolute discretion when nominating athletes for international classification. Athletes will be prioritised based on their recent performances*, performance progression* and likelihood of international representation within two years.

*athlete performances in Paralympic pathway events will be prioritised (see Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Medal Events).

What occurs at International Classification?

Classification for athletics typically includes 1 component – Physical assessment.

Classification component	Details
Physical Assessment	Assessment of visual acuity and/or visual field using a series of tests.

Who needs to present for WPA International Classification in 2018?

Athletes who hold the following sport class level and status will be required to attend international classification prior to the commencement of international competition in 2019:

- International New (*this applies to athletes who have not been classified internationally, including National Review and National Confirmed athletes*)
- International Review (*with no review year*)
- International Review (*with fixed review year 2017, 2018 or 2019*)

To check your current International Classification Status please visit the following website:

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/master-list>

Or alternatively contact Steve Caddy – steve.caddy@athletics.org.au

Your previous classification paperwork and medical diagnostic reports will be shared between the APC, AA and selected VI classifiers to assess what you may require as a part of your International Classification. If you do not wish for this occur, please email Steve Caddy (steve.caddy@athletics.org.au) by Friday 2nd November 2018.

AA Requirements

To attend International Classification, athletes are required to fulfil the following requirements:

1. VI Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF)

Please arrange for the VI Medical Diagnostics Form to be completed electronically by your specialist and ensure testing is done to provide supporting evidence of your visual impairment.

Information on the VI Medical Diagnostics form must clearly outline your diagnosis and level of impairment.

This medical document must have been completed no more than 12 months prior to the date of the upcoming international classification.

2. Additional medical diagnostic evidence of visual impairment

All athletes must provide additional relevant medical reports from their specialist to support the VI Medical Diagnostic form.

Athletes with the following impairments/diagnosis, or with an eye condition that is not obvious and visible and explains the loss of vision are also requested to provide additional relevant medical documentation including:

Eye Condition	Details
Anterior disease	none
Macular disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macular OCT • Multifocal and/or pattern ERG* • VEP* • Pattern appearance VEP*
Peripheral retina disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full field ERG* • Pattern ERG*
Optic Nerve disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCT • Pattern ERG*

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern VEP* • Pattern appearance VEP*
Cortical/Neurological disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern VEP* • Pattern ERG* • Pattern appearance VEP*

*for notes on electrophysiological assessments (VEPs and ERGs) please see VI Medical Diagnostics Form.

This medical documentation must have been completed no more than 12 months prior to the date of upcoming international classification.

3. Obtain an IPC License for the 2019 season

For 2019 IPC licensing please see this link – <http://athletics.com.au/High-Performance/Para-athletics/IPC-Licensing>

Your completed VI Medical Diagnostic form, supporting evidence and licensing documentation must be provided back to Athletics Australia by February 1st, 2019.

What happens if an athlete doesn't have the required documentation?

Without all the appropriate information, AA, WPA or the VI Classification panel may:

1. Not register the athlete for international level classification with WPA.
2. Decide not to classify an athlete as they do not have all the requested verification information. The athlete will be ineligible to compete at international level competition.
3. Provide the athlete with a Classification Not Complete, meaning the athlete has not finalised all aspects of classification. The athlete will be ineligible to compete at international level competition.

Timeframes

AA provides VI Medical Diagnostics form and outlines requirements to athletes.	December 2018
Athlete arranges specialist appointment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the VI Medical Diagnostics form completed. Have additional tests results as required by the paperwork.	December 2018
Athlete arranges IPC License through AA.	December 2018
AA provides information regarding competition in which VI International Classification is offered.	December 2018
Completed VI Medical diagnostics form, supporting documentation & licensing documentation to be provided back to AA.	1st February 2019
VI Medical Diagnostics reviewed with APC and additional information followed up as necessary.	8 th February 2019
Athlete to enter into the event in which classification is being conducted.	In line with competition entry deadline
Preparation with program staff and identification of athlete representative.	1 month prior to the identified event
AA provides athletes with the classification schedule to present for classification.	1 week prior to identified event
Athlete attends Classification.	1-2 days prior to identified event

WPA Classification Rules

Please refer to WPA Classification Rules and Regulations;

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/rules-and-regulations>

Contact

Steve Caddy – Athletics Australia

(Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator)

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