



Rowing Australia Classification Guidelines 2016 - 2020

Overview

The Rowing Australia (RA) Classification System provides a structure for competition for rowers with a physical, vision or intellectual impairment. Classification groups athletes into equitable sport classes according to the impact of their impairment on their ability to train and compete in the sport of rowing.

As the National Sports Organisation (NSO) responsible for rowing in Australia, Rowing Australia is responsible for the classification system for rowing which includes but is not limited to an outline of roles and responsibilities across RA and its member states to administer the system.

As a member sport of Paralympics Australia (PA), Rowing Australia is responsible for ensuring that the national system for classification is reliable, consistent with the PA, FISA and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) classification policies, regulations, standards, and best practice. This is to support continuity across the state, national and international systems.

Rowing Australia recognises that national classification management is in conjunction with system partners, in particular Paralympics Australia and Sport Inclusion Australia (SIA), and that the State Rowing Associations have an important role in supporting the national classification system.

This document was developed following consultation with the Australian Para- Rowing community, state associations, Sport Inclusion Australia and Paralympics Australia.

Classification

Rowing Australia, in conjunction with its system partners Paralympics Australia, Sport Inclusion Australia and state associations will support all Australian rowers with physical, vision and intellectual impairments to have access to classification opportunities appropriate to their level of competition. RA manages compliance and continuity across the Provisional and National Classification system.

Athletes with a Physical Impairment

Classification is coordinated, organised, conducted and overseen by RA in accordance with its Classification Regulations and By-Laws.

Athletes with a Vision Impairment

Classification is coordinated by PA in accordance with the PA and international classification policies, procedures and regulations.

Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment

Classification is coordinated by SIA in accordance with the SIA and international classification policies, procedures and regulations.



Provisional Classification

Some events (such as RA Masters Championships and the annual Head of the Yarra Regatta) may require a Provisional Classification as a minimum assessment of athlete eligibility.

Provisional Classification also provides an athlete with the opportunity to obtain an indication of potential eligibility for a Para-Rowing Sport Class based on the documentary information provided.

This classification may also be used when an athlete is new to Rowing and when a classification assessment is not conducted by a full classification panel.

For athletes with a physical impairment, the provisional process involves a paperwork assessment by an RA endorsed National Medical Classifier and/or FISA Medical Classifier.

For athletes with a vision impairment, the provisional process involves a paperwork assessment by a Paralympics Australia endorsed VI classifier.

A provisional assessment is an indication **only** and is based on the information provided at the time. It may differ from an assessment outcome provided by a full National Classification Panel.

Provisional classification supersedes any state based/local eligibility advice.

National Classification

National Classification is an eligibility requirement for some national level competitions and activities (such as the Australian National Championships and Australian National Selection Trials).

For athletes with a physical impairment, assessment is by a panel of trained classifiers at an opportunity organised by RA, usually at the NSW Championships each year.

For athletes with a vision impairment, assessment is organised by PA with an endorsed VI classifier.

For athletes with an intellectual impairment, assessment is managed by Sport Inclusion Australia.

National Classification supersedes Provisional Classification and state based/local eligibility advice.

International Classification

International Classification is an eligibility requirement for some international competitions and activities.

RA manages and facilitates classification for athletes with a physical, vision or intellectual impairment who require international classification.

International Classification supersedes National Classification.

Roles and Responsibilities

Rowing Australia

Rowing Australia is responsible for:

- Coordinating, organising, conducting and overseeing National Classification activities as per the Rowing Australia Classification Regulations and Bye-Laws.
- Providing annual National Classification opportunities.
- maintaining the Australian Rowing Classification Master List.
- managing classification disputes.
- providing classification support to classification stakeholders.
- Managing classification certification and education for RA Technical and Medical Classifiers (physical impairment).
- Ensuring the National Classification system is consistent with the relevant national and international classification regulations and procedures with particular attention to PA, FISA and IPC classification systems.
- Managing requirements for International Classification.

State Rowing Associations

State Rowing Associations are responsible for:

- outlining and communicating the Classification requirements for competition in their State.
- ensuring that state/local requirements are considered with reference and relevance to national and international classification systems.
- directing all National and Provisional Classification enquiries to Rowing Australia to ensure continuity, conformity and consistency across the RA National Classification system.
- supporting athletes and their representatives to understand the classification process, rules and regulations.