

# Paratriathlon Classification Rules

December 2023

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part One: General Provisions</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Scope and Application</i>	5
<i>Adoption</i>	5
<i>Classification</i>	5
<i>Application</i>	5
<i>Interpretation and Relationship to other key documents</i>	6
<i>Amendments to the Rules</i>	6
<i>World Triathlon Rules &amp; International Level Classification</i>	6
<i>National Level Classification Requirements</i>	6
<i>Roles and Responsibilities</i>	7
<i>Athlete Responsibilities</i>	7
<i>Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities</i>	7
<i>Classification Personnel Responsibilities</i>	7
<b>Part Two: Classification Personnel</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Classification Personnel</i>	8
<i>Classifier Roles</i>	9
<i>National Physical Impairment (PI) Classifier Certification and Competencies</i>	9
<i>Prerequisite National Level PI Classifier criteria</i>	10
<i>PI Classifier Education model</i>	10
<i>National Level PI Classifier Certification</i>	10
<i>Maintaining Certification as a National Level Classifier</i>	10
<i>Classification Personnel Code of Conduct</i>	11
<i>National Vision Impairment (VI) Classifiers</i>	12
<b>Part Three: Athlete Evaluation</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>General Provisions</i>	12
<i>Eligible Impairment</i>	12
<i>Eligibility Assessment</i>	12
<i>Minimum Impairment Criteria</i>	14
<i>Sport Class</i>	14
<i>Classification Not Completed</i>	15
<b>Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>The Classification Panel</i>	15
<i>General Provisions</i>	15
<i>Classification Panel Responsibilities</i>	15
<i>Evaluation Sessions</i>	16
<i>Observation in Competition Assessment</i>	17

<i>National Level Sport Class Status .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Changes to Sport Class Criteria .....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Provisional Level Classifications .....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Multiple Sport Classes .....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Changing Sport Class.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>National Level Athlete Evaluation Classification Outcomes .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<b>Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>General Provisions .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Absence of Eligible Impairment.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria .....</i>	<i>22</i>
<b>Part Six: Protests .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Scope of a Protest.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Protest of National Level Athlete Evaluations .....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<b>Part Seven: Misconduct during an Evaluation Session .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Failure to Attend Evaluation Session .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Suspension of Evaluation Session .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<b>Part Eight: Medical Review .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<i>Medical Review .....</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Levels of IM.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>International Level IM .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>National Level IM .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<b>Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Classification Data.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Consent and Processing.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Classification Research .....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Notification to Athletes .....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Classification Data Security .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Disclosures of Classification Data .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Retaining Classification Data.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Access Rights to Classification Data .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Classification Masterlists.....</i>	<i>31</i>

<b>Part Eleven: National Level Classification Appeals .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Appeal .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>International Level Classification Appeals .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>National Level Classification Appeals .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Appeal.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<b>Part Twelve: Definitions .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Part Thirteen: Revisions and Approval History .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Appendix One.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<i>Athletes with Physical Impairment.....</i>	<i>37</i>
1 <i>Eligible Impairment Types.....</i>	<i>37</i>
2 <i>Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and MIC Assessment Methodology.....</i>	<i>38</i>
3 <i>Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status .....</i>	<i>38</i>
<b>Appendix Two .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Athletes with a Vision Impairment .....</i>	<i>39</i>
1 <i>Eligible Impairment Types.....</i>	<i>39</i>
2 <i>Eligibility Criteria and Assessment .....</i>	<i>39</i>
3 <i>Minimum Impairment Criteria.....</i>	<i>39</i>
4 <i>Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status .....</i>	<i>39</i>
<b>Appendix Three: Non-Eligible Impairment Types.....</b>	<b>40</b>
1 <i>Non-Eligible Impairment Types for Para-Sport disciplines.....</i>	<i>40</i>
2 <i>Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment .....</i>	<i>40</i>

## Part One: General Provisions

A list of definitions and abbreviations is provided in [Part 12](#) of these Classification Rules.

### Scope and Application

#### Adoption

- 1.1. These Classification Rules are referred to throughout this document as the **Classification Rules**.
- 1.2. These Classification Rules have been adopted by AusTriathlon on 19 December 2023.
- 1.3. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4. These Classification Rules form part of the AusTriathlon Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. These Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms. These forms are available from AusTriathlon and can be amended by AusTriathlon from time to time.

#### Classification

- 1.6. Classification is undertaken to:
  - a) define who is eligible to compete in Paratriathlon; and
  - b) group Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each sport or specific discipline.

#### Application

- 1.7. These Classification Rules apply only to AusTriathlon Para-Sport Competition and Classification for Athletes with impairments that sit within the scope of the International Paralympic Committee (**IPC**) Athlete Classification Code and the relevant International Sports Federation (**IF**) rules. These rules do not apply to Athletes with other disabilities engaged in Para-Sport.
- 1.8. These Classification Rules do not apply to World Triathlon (**WT**) level Competition and Athlete Evaluation. International Level Athlete Evaluation and Competition is governed by the WT and respective WT Classification Rules.
- 1.9. These Classification Rules apply to:
  - a) All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered with AusTriathlon and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by AusTriathlon. They are not mandatory for implementation at club or participation level Competition;
  - b) AusTriathlon employees, contractors and volunteers;
  - c) AusTriathlon Member organisations; and
  - d) Any other person or organisation who is engaged by AusTriathlon to support Classification activities.
- 1.10. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of AusTriathlon.

## Interpretation and Relationship to other key documents

- 1.11. These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Athlete Classification Code, the PA (PA) Athlete Classification Policy and Classification Standards, and the WT Classification Rules.
- 1.12. If these Rules fail to provide for a matter covered by a provision in the WT Rules or PA Classification Policy or Standards, the provisions appearing in the WT Rules or PA Policy shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Rules.
- 1.13. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other document, these Classification Rules shall take precedence.

## Amendments to the Rules

- 1.14. These Classification Rules may be amended at anytime by AusTriathlon as a result, for example, of changes in the WT Classification Rules or where AusTriathlon considers it necessary to do so.

## WT Rules & International Level Classification

- 1.15. Australian Athletes who hold an International Level Classification will use the WT allocated class for all national level Competition.
- 1.16. WT Level Classification outcomes supersede any AusTriathlon National and Provisional level Classification.
- 1.17. Where an Athlete holds an International Level Classification, but no longer wishes to compete at an International Level, the Athlete shall retire from International Competition through WT's processes.
- 1.18. Following the Athlete's retirement, if the Athlete wishes to continue competing at a National level, the Athlete's WT allocated sport class and sport class status shall be converted to a National Level Classification. For the avoidance of doubt, Athletes with a Review sport class status that was allocated by WT will be allocated a National Review status; Athletes with Confirmed or Fixed Review Date status will also be allocated National Confirmed and National Fixed Review Date accordingly.

## National Level Classification Requirements

- 1.19. To participate in National or State Level Competition, Athletes must have been allocated a Sport Class (other than **Sport Class Not Eligible**) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules. A minimum of a National Level Classification is required for AusTriathlon National Paratriathlon Championships and a minimum of a Provisional Level Classification is required for all other AusTriathlon or state member events unless event entry information states otherwise. AusTriathlon reserves the right to adjust these requirements at its discretion.
- 1.20. AusTriathlon will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions or other such locations or processes as defined by AusTriathlon. AusTriathlon will provide Athletes with advance notice of Classification opportunities.
- 1.21. To access Classification opportunities an Athlete must:
  - Be 10 years of age; and
  - Have the following sport proficiency skills:
    - Ability to swim, cycle and run (for ambulant athletes) or use a wheelchair (for wheelchair classes) to demonstrate their function in the sport.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- 1.22 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

- 1.23 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions/Diagnosis and Eligible Impairments is provided to AusTriathlon;
  - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
  - contribute to the process of education and awareness, and Classification research; and
  - abide by the AusTriathlon Code of Conduct.

### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

- 1.24 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:
- be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - assist in the development, management and implementation of the Classification System; and
  - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 1.25 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
- have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - assist in the development, management and implementation of the Classification System, including participation in education and research; and
  - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

## Part Two: Classification Personnel

### Classification Personnel

- 2.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. AusTriathlon will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, administration and delivery of Classification for AusTriathlon. Classifiers are AusTriathlon officials, responsible to conduct Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of AusTriathlon.
- 2.2 AusTriathlon will appoint Classification Personnel to:
- Facilitate compliance with the IPC Code, WT Classification Rules and PA Athlete Classification Policy and Standards.
  - Develop the AusTriathlon Classification program, policies and procedures and expectations of their members.
  - Develop the Classification program plan including short-term and long-term planning.
  - Manage the AusTriathlon Classification budget and financial reporting.
  - Manage Classification Personnel recruitment, training and performance management.
  - Embed safeguards and integrity practices within the AusTriathlon Classification program including but not limited to: child safety, physical and mental wellbeing support, dispute resolution processes; management of Classification Intelligence, Investigations and Intentional Misrepresentation.
  - Manage the Classification requirements of AusTriathlon High Performance programs.
  - Plan and organise national level Athlete Evaluation opportunities and appointment of Classification Panels.
  - Maintain appropriate Classification Data Storage and protection
  - Manage the AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist.
  - Develop and deliver Classification education and awareness programs for stakeholders.
  - Manage Classification Research and Administration.
  - Implement changes to Classification Systems.
  - Appoint a key Classification contact with WT, other NPCs and other key stakeholders.
- 2.3 AusTriathlon may delegate the above responsibilities to one or a number of key personnel including but not limited to:
- A Classification Manager/Coordinator;
  - Classification Administrator for data management purposes;
  - AusTriathlon Appointed Classification Advisory Group or AusTriathlon Appointed Head of Classification;
  - An Athlete representative/s;
  - Any other area of AusTriathlon business, such as embedding Classifier education within officiating department, Classification integrity within AusTriathlon Member Services; and
  - AusTriathlon state members or other organisations by way of agreement.
- 2.4 Any AusTriathlon Classifier designated with some or all of the above responsibilities by AusTriathlon may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier at any Classification opportunity/Event.
- 2.5 The appointment, training and management of all Classification Personnel for Athletes with a Vision Impairment is the responsibility of PA.



## Classifier Roles

### Chief Classifier

- 2.6 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by AusTriathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or Event. AusTriathlon may appoint a specific Chief Classifier, or not, at its sole discretion.

### National Level Classifiers

- 2.7 A National Level Classifier is a person authorised as a AusTriathlon official and certified by AusTriathlon to conduct some or all components of National Level Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 2.8 Australian Classifiers who hold an active WT International Level Classifier Certification, are:
- recognised by AusTriathlon as meeting the necessary competencies as a national level Classifier; and
  - expected to contribute to AusTriathlon at a national level, unless their conduct or other certification requirements prevent it.

### Trainee National Level Classifiers

- 2.9 A Trainee National Level Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal National Level training by AusTriathlon.
- 2.10 AusTriathlon may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop their Classifier Competencies.

### National Physical Impairment (PI) Classifier Certification and Competencies

- 2.11 A National Level PI Classifier will be certified by AusTriathlon once they have achieved the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 2.12 AusTriathlon will provide training and ongoing education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 2.13 AusTriathlon Classifier Competencies include:
- an understanding of these Classification Rules;
  - an understanding of Paratriathlon including an understanding of the AusTriathlon Race Competition Rules;
  - a basic understanding of the IPC Code, PA Athlete Classification Policy and Classification Standards; and
  - a professional qualification(s) including that Classifiers must either:
    - be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which AusTriathlon at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a medical doctor or physiotherapist; and/or
    - have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the particular sport(s) or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which AusTriathlon at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

- 2.14 AusTriathlon has established a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process includes:
- a process for the certification of National Level Classifiers (if relevant);
  - quality assessment and ongoing education for the period of certification;
  - a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification;
  - a process for Re-certification of Classifiers; and
  - a process for non-active National level Classifiers.

#### **Prerequisite National Level PI Classifier criteria**

- 2.15 The following criteria are pre-requisites for National level PI Classifiers:
- Candidate qualifications and experiences such as current medical doctor or Physiotherapy registration for medical Classifiers or relevant technical expertise for Physical Impairment technical Classifiers;
  - Candidate holds a current Working with Children clearance in the state of residence and appointment;
  - Minimum age of 18 years; and
  - Current Provide First Aid (HLTAID011) and Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (HLTAID009) certificates.
- 2.16 AusTriathlon may modify the Classifier scope and certification requirements as it deems necessary from time to time.

#### **PI Classifier Education model**

- 2.17 The PI Classifier Education model will follow:
- Theoretical modules (online or face to face)
  - Practical learning opportunities – both formal and informal
  - Ongoing education
  - Recertification requirements

#### **National Level PI Classifier Certification**

- 2.18 Certification of Classifiers is completed once the Sport Technical Official – Classifier Agreement has been signed by the National level Classifier.
- 2.19 Classifier details will be stored according to AusTriathlon Privacy Policy.

#### **Maintaining Certification as a National Level Classifier**

- 2.20 To retain certification as a AusTriathlon National Level Classifier, the Classifier must:
- Have been actively involved in Classification activities in the previous two years;
  - Complete compulsory ongoing professional development opportunities, such as forums, updates, discussion boards, peer mentoring and other formal and informal methods;
  - Complete any compulsory reflective practice opportunities; and
  - Maintain professional registrations or clearances (such as working with children checks) relevant to the role of Classifier.

## **Classification Personnel Code of Conduct**

- 2.21 The integrity of Classification in AusTriathlon depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. All AusTriathlon Classification Personnel must comply with the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.
- 2.22 National level Classification Personnel must:
- accept the fundamental Para-Sport values of honesty, human rights, fairness, justice, non- discrimination and personal integrity;
  - act with dignity, integrity and equality;
  - safeguard Athletes' interests, priorities and opportunity to participate in fair competition and excel in sport;
  - safeguard Athletes' physical and psychological health and wellbeing;
  - comply with local public health advice and review any health risks associated with the delivery of Classification activities;
  - conduct themselves with integrity, maintaining a high standard of personal conduct and avoid any behaviour or action that would tarnish or give the impression of tarnishing the reputation of the Paralympic Movement or AusTriathlon;
  - have no undisclosed direct or indirect interest in or any relationship with any outside organisation or person that might affect or be reasonably misunderstood by others to be affecting their objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities that they have in conjunction with AusTriathlon Classification activities. Any potential conflicts of interest are to be declared;
  - avoid assuming any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition, unless authorised by AusTriathlon. For example, a Classifier should avoid acting as a technical official, coach or health care professional at a Competition when acting as a Classifier at that same Competition;
  - avoid any improper use of information or assets;
  - not seek or accept gifts or gratuities from any organisation or individual outside of AusTriathlon (or its members);
  - perform their duties courteously, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes;
  - respect Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, ensuring a courteous and collaborative environment during the Classification process;
  - maintain confidentiality of Classification information and abide by other AusTriathlon data protection mechanisms;
  - perform Classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances;
  - comply with AusTriathlon Policies, the NIF and Code of Conduct, and such other requirements as may be outlined by AusTriathlon from time to time.
- 2.23 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Code of Conduct should report this to AusTriathlon.
- 2.24 If AusTriathlon receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 2.25 AusTriathlon has sole discretion to determine whether or not a Classification Personnel has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

## **National Vision Impairment (VI) Classifiers**

- 2.26 By way of mutual agreement with AusTriathlon, the education, certification and conduct for vision impairment classification personnel is the responsibility of PA

## **Part Three: Athlete Evaluation**

### **General Provisions**

- 3.1 AusTriathlon has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a National Level Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.2 National Level Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
- an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Paratriathlon (Eligibility Assessment);
  - an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon; and
  - the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 3.3 AusTriathlon may also offer Provisional Level Classification which is a Classification process available to Athletes as an entry level Classification process or to Athletes in locations where National Level Classification is unavailable. Refer to Part 4: Provisional Classification for details.

### **Eligible Impairment**

- 3.4 Any Athlete wishing to compete in Paratriathlon governed by AusTriathlon must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be permanent.
- 3.5 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in Paratriathlon.
- 3.6 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.
- 3.7 Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.8 Any Athlete who has a Health Condition but does not have an Eligible Impairment will not be eligible to compete in Paratriathlon.
- 3.9 AusTriathlon adopts the Eligible Impairments outlined in the WT Classification Rules.

### **Eligibility Assessment**

- 3.10 AusTriathlon will determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.11 To be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, AusTriathlon may require any Athlete to provide evidence that they have a Health Condition (Diagnosis) that leads to an Eligible Impairment.

- 3.12 The means by which AusTriathlon determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of AusTriathlon. AusTriathlon may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
- 3.13 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment AusTriathlon becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, that it makes it unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Part 3 of these Classification Rules. In such instances, AusTriathlon will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant Athlete and their Athlete Support Personnel.
- 3.14 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply Diagnostic Information as follows:
- For Athletes with a Physical Impairment (PI):  
The relevant Athlete must submit a PI Medical Diagnostics Form to AusTriathlon.
  - For Athletes with a Vision Impairment (VI):  
The relevant Athlete must submit a VI Medical Diagnostics to PA.
- 3.15 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified medical practitioner (Physical Impairment) or Ophthalmologist, Optometrist or Orthoptist (Vision Impairment).
- 3.16 The Medical Diagnostic or Eligibility Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information/reports if required by AusTriathlon for PI or PA for VI.
- 3.17 The athlete may be required to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics or Eligibility Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if AusTriathlon or PA at its sole discretion considers the information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 3.18 AusTriathlon or PA may appoint one or a number of persons to complete the Eligibility Assessment.
- 3.19 The Eligibility Assessment is as follows:
- AusTriathlon or PA will determine what Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete and for what purposes.
  - AusTriathlon or PA will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information. Typically, Diagnostic Information will be required at a minimum two weeks prior to the Competition opportunity.
  - Person/s will be appointed to conduct the Eligibility Assessment. The appointed person/s will have appropriate medical/allied health qualifications to assess the information provided. All persons conducting Eligibility Assessment must comply with PA Classification Standard: Data Protection. In the case of PI and VI Classification, Eligibility Assessment may be deferred to the Classification Panel or an alternate group of assessors.
- 3.19 Each Eligibility Assessment will involve the review of the Diagnostic Information to decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.

- 3.20 In the case of PI and VI where the Eligibility Assessment has been deferred to the Classification Panel, the panel may also consider the clinical presentation of the Athlete in its decision.
- 3.21 In the case of VI and PI, if the Eligibility Assessment determines that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to proceed to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 3.22 If the Eligibility Assessment is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, AusTriathlon or PA will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the Athlete and/or their approved representative. The Athlete will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and provide further Diagnostic Information for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, AusTriathlon or PA will inform the Athlete. If the decision is not changed, AusTriathlon or PA will issue a final decision in writing to the Athlete, with no right of Protest this decision. The Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with Part 5 of these Classification Rules.
- 3.23 AusTriathlon may, if required, seek expertise from PA regarding Eligibility Assessment decisions. In this case, AusTriathlon will ensure that appropriate data protection provisions are in place to share the Diagnostic Information with PA.

#### **Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 3.24 An Athlete who wishes to compete in Paratriathlon must comply with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon.
- 3.25 AusTriathlon adopts the Minimum Impairment Criteria and processes set by WT.
- 3.26 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify further details.
- 3.27 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Part 5.

#### **Sport Class**

- 3.28 A Sport Class is a category defined by AusTriathlon in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Paratriathlon.
- 3.29 AusTriathlon adopts the Para-Sport Classes set by WT.
- 3.30 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon will be allocated a Sport Class (subject to Part 7: Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 3.31 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.



## **Classification Not Completed**

- 3.32 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the relevant Classification Panel may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 3.33 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will, however, be recorded on the AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist.
- 3.34 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in AusTriathlon Para Competition, unless otherwise approved by AusTriathlon.

## **Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel**

### **The Classification Panel**

- 4.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by AusTriathlon for PI or by PA for VI to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation, including as part of an Evaluation Session.

### **General Provisions**

- 4.2 A Classification Panel will be comprised of two certified Classifiers and two certified Classifiers for Vision Impairment. AusTriathlon or PA may provide that a Classification Panel comprises only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier possessing a medical/allied health qualification.
- 4.3 A National Level Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

### **Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 4.4 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will:
- assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport (Physical Assessment) in accordance with Appendix One and Two;
  - assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (Technical Assessment) in accordance with Appendix One; and
  - conduct Observation in Competition Assessment if required.
- 4.5 Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 4.6 The Evaluation will take place in an environment that allows for sufficient assessment of the relevant components of the Athlete Evaluation process. This assessment may take place alongside, or away from, Competition.
- 4.7 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.

- 4.8 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendices One and Two.

### **Evaluation Sessions**

- 4.9 This Evaluation Sessions section applies to Evaluation Sessions for Athletes with a Physical or Vision Impairment only.
- 4.10 The Athlete and any other Athlete Support Personnel is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 4.11 In respect of Athletes:
- Athletes have the right to choose one person, and are encouraged to do so, to accompany them during the Athlete Evaluation Session (Athlete Representative). The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is under the age of 18 or has a legal guardian.
  - The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
  - The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Classification Athlete Evaluation Consent Form.
  - The Athlete must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a birth certificate, Medicare card, passport or drivers license.
  - The Athlete should attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class.
  - The Athlete should be in a state of sufficient personal health to enable their full participation in Athlete Evaluation processes and minimise any health risk to others;
  - The Athlete must provide agreement to be photographed and/or videotaped for Athlete Evaluation purposes and give consent for Data processing and disclosure for the Classification purposes.
  - The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 4.12 In respect of the Classification Panel:
- The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide additional medical documentation relevant to their Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
  - The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in spoken English unless otherwise stipulated by AusTriathlon or PA. If the Athlete requires an interpreter (e.g. language other than English or Auslan) the Athlete will be responsible for arranging the interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete Representative.
  - The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of AusTriathlon or PA if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.



- In addition to any opinion sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete and AusTriathlon for PI and PA for VI (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

### **Observation in Competition Assessment**

- 4.13 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete with a Physical Impairment undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 4.14 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 4.15 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 4.16 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 4.17 Observation in Competition Assessment takes place during an Athlete's First Appearance unless it is practically impossible to do so. In this regard:
- **First Appearance** is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
- 4.18 If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and the Protest Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition, then Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity.
- 4.19 If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.
- 4.20 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, rankings and results are detailed in the WT Classification Rules.

### **National Level Sport Class Status**

- 4.21 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 4.22 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete include:
- New (N);
  - Review (R);
  - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD); and
  - Confirmed (C).

- 4.23 Provisions regarding the allocation of Sport Class Status for Athletes with a Vision Impairment follow the PA Vision Impairment Classification Procedures document.

#### **Sport Class Status New**

- 4.24 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by AusTriathlon if they have entered for a Competition but have not yet undergone Athlete Evaluation; meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at an upcoming opportunity.

#### **Sport Class Status Review**

- 4.25 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 4.26 This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
- has only recently started Competition in Para sports;
  - has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/s that is Permanent but not stable; and/or
  - has not reached full musculoskeletal or sports maturity.
- 4.27 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier for Physical Impairment Classifications, where this Classifier is a Medical Classifier, must designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 4.28 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent AusTriathlon Competition, unless AusTriathlon determines otherwise.

#### **Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

- 4.29 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
- 4.30 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session as per date reflected in the AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist. For example, an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review of Fixed Date of 2024 will be required to attend an Evaluations Session at their first opportunity after 01 January 2024. If the Fixed Review Date is listed as an exact date, such as 05.06.2024, then the athlete may be classified from 05.06.2024. An athlete with FRD status reverts to an R status after the review date has passed at which point the provisions of Article 4.25-4.28 apply.
- 4.31 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
- 4.32 A Classification Panel for Physical Impairment that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but will designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

### **Sport Class Status Confirmed**

- 4.33 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is and will remain stable.
- 4.34 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Part 6), Medical Review (Part 8) and Changes to Sport Class Criteria (Article 4.36 - 4.37).
- 4.35 A Physical Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier cannot designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 4.36 If AusTriathlon changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then AusTriathlon may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Fixed Review Date (FRD) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity.
- 4.37 Relevant Athletes and stakeholders shall be provided appropriate notice of anticipated changes to their Classification System.

### **Provisional Level Classifications**

- 4.38 Provisional Classification is a process offered by AusTriathlon for Athletes with a Physical Impairment and by PA for Athletes with a Vision Impairment as an entry level Classification process for Athletes where National Level Classification is unavailable or unsuitable. Provisional Classification is an indication of Athlete eligibility and sport class only. Procedures are guided by the criteria outlined in Appendix One and Two of these Classification Rules but are not required to follow the same methods of assessment.
- 4.39 Provisional Classifications are conducted by a certified AusTriathlon PI Classifier or PA VI Classifier and involve the assessment of information by at least one medical Classifier.
- 4.40 Once an Athlete has undergone a National Level Athlete Evaluation those outcomes supersede any previous Provisional Classification outcomes.
- 4.41 Athletes with Provisional Classifications are valid for all levels of Competition, with the exception of events designated as National Championships, at the final discretion of AusTriathlon.
- 4.42 Athletes holding a Provisional Classification are not eligible for records, rankings and any AusTriathlon team selection at the final discretion of the AusTriathlon.
- 4.43 Provisional Classification process is conducted as follows:
- Gain written consent to Process Athletes personal and Classification information;
  - Collect sufficient medical and other sport information to give a likely indication of Eligibility Assessment and allocation of Sport Class. For example, this may be conducted via submission of medical and/or sports data via written report, or photo, video or other multimedia;
  - Assess information supplied by Athlete;

- Provide written notification of Provisional Classification outcomes as soon as is practically possible;
  - Publish Provisional outcome on the AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist.
- 4.44 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification who do not demonstrate the presence of an Eligible Impairment, will be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status of Confirmed.
- 4.45 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification, who meet the conditions of Eligibility Assessment but do not appear to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon are to be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status of Review and may be reviewed by a national level classification panel.
- 4.46 Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification will be allocated the Sport Class Status of Review.
- 4.47 Athletes who hold a provisional level Classification may have their provisional outcome reviewed and a new provisional Classification issued if:
- their medical condition has changed by way of the Medical Review Process outlined in Article 8; or
  - there is a relevant change in the AusTriathlon Classification Rules that would affect the provisional class they have been allocated.
- 4.48 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level Athlete Evaluation process will be given a sport class of Not Eligible and Sport Class Status of Review. These Athletes are permitted to be reviewed by a National level Classification Panel.

### **Multiple Sport Classes**

- 4.49 It is possible that an Athlete may be eligible for two or more Sport Classes. For example, it may be the case that an Athlete has a combination of Physical Impairment and Vision Impairment. Further, an Athlete might have a Physical Impairment which would make them eligible for a Sport Class in two different disciplines (for example, PTWC and PTS classes).
- 4.50 If an Athlete is potentially eligible for two or more sport classes then:
- the Athlete must notify AusTriathlon as to all the Athlete's Eligible Impairments via the Medical Diagnostic process;
  - the Athlete will be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to their multiple Impairments;
  - at the conclusion of the Evaluation Session/s the Athlete is allocated multiple sport classes;
  - the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that they wish to compete in ('the preferred Sport Class');
  - the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable AusTriathlon Rules and Regulations (including but not limited to those in relation to the use of equipment and the use of guides);
  - the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class; and

- details of all of the Athlete's Sport Classes will be published on the AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist.

### **Changing Sport Class**

- 4.51 An Athlete who is eligible for Multiple Sport Classes may change their preferred Sport Class between different events. However, if one sport class has been used to obtain qualification in a future Event, the Athlete must compete with this class in that future Event.
- 4.52 Nothing in this Article precludes an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request as outlined in Part 8 at any time in respect of any Sport Class they hold.

### **National Level Athlete Evaluation Classification Outcomes**

- 4.53 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation will be verbally notified to the Athlete as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.54 If Athlete Evaluation is held at a Competition, the Classification Personnel must convey the Classification outcomes to the Organising Committee so that they can prepare start lists and make associated Event management arrangements.
- 4.55 All Classification outcomes shall be confirmed in writing to the Athlete, as soon as is practically possible. Copies of the full Classification Form are available to the Athlete on request.
- 4.56 The outcomes will be made available via the Classification Masterlist on the AusTriathlon website.

## **Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible**

### **General Provisions**

- 5.1 If AusTriathlon for PI or PA for VI determines that an Athlete:
- has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - has a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment; or
  - if a VI or PI Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon.
- then that Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for Paratriathlon.

### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 5.2 If AusTriathlon or PA determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment through the Eligibility Assessment process, that Athlete:
- will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) for that impairment type.
- 5.3 If an IF or another NSO/NSOD has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, AusTriathlon may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 5.4 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by AusTriathlon or a Classification Panel (if delegated by AusTriathlon) because that Athlete has:

- an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
- a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment;

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any AusTriathlon recognised Para-Sport Classes.

- 5.5 The provisions outlined in Article 5.2-5.4 also apply to athletes undergoing provisional classification.

### **Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 5.6 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 5.7 The Athlete will be reviewed by a second Classification Panel, as soon as is possible. The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment, unless otherwise designated by AusTriathlon.
- 5.8 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 5.9 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete will be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 5.10 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for Paratriathlon. Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete as a Para-Athlete in Paratriathlon.

## **Part Six: Protests**

### **Scope of a Protest**

- 6.1 A Protest is defined as the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 6.2 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 6.3 Protests do not apply to:
- Athletes that have been allocated a Not Eligible Sport Class; or
  - Athletes whose condition has changed and are subsequently eligible for a Medical Review process.
- 6.4 Dispute resolution processes for Provisional Classifications are outlined in Part 4.



## Protest of National Level Athlete Evaluations

### Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Protests

- 6.5 A National Level Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- an Athlete with a Physical or Vision Impairment;
  - AusTriathlon (in relation to Athletes with a Physical Impairment); or
  - PA (in relation to Athletes with a Vision Impairment only).
- 6.6 An Athlete may only make a Protest in respect of the Athlete's own Classification outcome. Protests of other Athlete's Classifications are not permitted. If any person has a genuine belief and holds evidence that another Athlete has been allocated the incorrect class, it may pass such evidence on to AusTriathlon for PI, and to PA for VI, for consideration. The receipt of evidence does not require AusTriathlon and the respective impairment organisation if more than one impairment eligible for sport to make a Protest.
- 6.6 AusTriathlon may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
  - an Athlete makes a documented request to AusTriathlon. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of AusTriathlon.

### Submission processes of National Level Protests

- 6.7 For Athletes with a Vision Impairment, AusTriathlon delegates all national level Protest submission, assessment and resolution processes to PA and under provisions set by PA. PA is to confirm any Protest with AusTriathlon in respect to Athletes competing under AusTriathlon jurisdiction prior to initiating a Protest.
- 6.8 The Protesting party must complete the relevant Protest Form, including but not limited to:
- the name, identifying particulars of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being Protested;
  - the details of the Protested decision and/or a copy of the Protested decision;
  - an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Protesting party believes that the Protested decision is flawed. Reference to specific rules alleged to have been breached is encouraged;
  - Any documents and other evidence in support of the Protest; and
  - The signature of the party making the Protest.
- 6.9 PI Protests must be submitted within 30 days of the Classification outcome being determined. VI Protests must be submitted within the timelines and under the provisions set by PA.
- 6.10 Protests initiated by AusTriathlon, or PA may be made at any time.
- 6.11 If an Athlete is required by a PI Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, an Athlete may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place.

### **Assessment of National Level Protest Submission**

- 6.12 Upon receipt of a National Level Protest, AusTriathlon or PA will review the Protest, and determine if the Protest will be accepted or dismissed.
- 6.13 Protests may be dismissed, at AusTriathlon or PA's discretion where it does not comply with Protest requirements including but not limited to:
- The Protest has been submitted without all necessary information;
  - The Protest is an allegation without evidence.
- 6.14 If the Protest is dismissed, AusTriathlon or PA will notify in writing the Protesting party as soon as is practical.
- 6.15 If the Protest is accepted:
- The Protested Athlete's Sport Class will remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review, effective immediately. In the instance of Athletes with a Vision Impairment, if the Athlete holds Classifications across two or more sports, the Athletes Sport Class Status will be amended to Review with immediate effect across all sports that the Athlete holds a Classification for.
  - A Protest Panel shall be appointed to review the Protest as soon as reasonably possible. This may be a Protest Panel at the current Competition, the next Competition or Athlete Evaluation opportunity.
  - AusTriathlon or PA will notify all relevant parties in writing of the acceptance of, or reason for the Protest and advise of the opportunity for Protest re-Evaluation to occur.

### **Protest Panel**

- 6.16 A Protest Panel will be appointed by AusTriathlon or PA in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 6.17 A Protest Panel will not include any person who:
- was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or
  - conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision;
- unless otherwise agreed by the Athlete and AusTriathlon or PA.
- 6.18 AusTriathlon or PA will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that will be conducted by the Protest Panel. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity. Pending the resolution of the Protest, the Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 6.19 The Protest Panel will conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents and other Classification records when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 6.20 The Protest Panel will allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties will be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.



- 6.21 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both an Athlete Protest and a AusTriathlon or PA Protest is final. If the Protest was submitted in conjunction with a Competition, an Athlete, AusTriathlon or PA may not make another Protest at that Competition. The decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed if the requirements set out for Appeals in Part 11 are met. This does not preclude an Athlete from Protesting future Classification decisions.
- 6.22 For Athletes with a Vision Impairment, if the decision of the Protest Panel results in the Sport Class of the Athlete being changed, the resulting Sport Class and Sport Class Status will supersede all national level VI Classifications held by the Athlete.

### **Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests**

- 6.23 AusTriathlon or PA may issue special ad hoc provisions related to Protests related to their specific impairment group to operate in specific circumstances. Athletes will be adequately notified of any change in the provisions.

## **Part Seven: Misconduct during an Evaluation Session**

### **Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

- 7.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 7.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to AusTriathlon or PA. AusTriathlon or PA may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 7.3 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, AusTriathlon may preclude the Athlete from further competing.

### **Suspension of Evaluation Session**

- 7.4 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the AusTriathlon and PA for Athletes with a Vision Impairment, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, one or more of the following circumstances:
- a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
  - a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/devices/implants disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - the Athlete has a Health Condition (of any nature or description) that may limit or prohibit complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;

- the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given to them by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
- the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

7.5 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps will be taken:

- an explanation for the suspension and the remedial action and timeframe will be provided to the Athlete;
- if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of AusTriathlon or PA, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
- if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified or to a satisfactory standard, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete will be precluded from competing in Paratriathlon Competition until the Athlete Evaluation is completed.

7.6 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Part 3 of these Classification Rules.

7.7 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **Part Eight: Medical Review**

### **Medical Review**

- 8.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD). Additionally, this process applies to Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification.
- 8.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by Paratriathlon in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 8.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete together with any supporting documentation. The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class is no longer accurate. It will generally be the case that any Medical Review Request will need to be accompanied by medical records.
- 8.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by AusTriathlon for PI and PA for VI prior to competing at any future Event or within 12 months of the change occurring, whichever comes sooner.
- 8.5 AusTriathlon or PA will decide whether the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is possible following receipt of the Medical Review Request.

- 8.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes outlined in Article 8.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of AusTriathlon or PA may be committing Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 8.7 If a Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect. In the instance of Athletes with a Vision Impairment, if the Athlete holds Classification across two or more sports, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect across all sports the Athlete holds a Classification for.
- 8.8 If a Medical Review Request does not include sufficient evidence to explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed, the Medical Review will not be accepted, and the Athlete's Sport Class Status will not be changed.

## **Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 9.1 The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation (IM):
- An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead an IF or NSO/NSOD or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
  - An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of Article 9.1.
- 9.2 Examples of IM include (without limitation):
- submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence of a Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that the Athlete does not have;
  - deliberately underperforming during a Classification evaluation session
  - intentionally undergoing Classification without the adaptive equipment they intend to use in competition;
  - otherwise misrepresenting their skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of their impairment before, during or after Classification;
  - disrupting Classification, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during Classification, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
  - not providing accurate information as to their identity or having another person attend Classification in their place; and/or
  - deliberately failing to notify the relevant IF or NSO/NSOD of any relevant Classification-related information, including that they have previously undergone Classification (for example in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of their impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.
- 9.3 AusTriathlon considers IM as a very serious offence that undermines the integrity of Classification and Para-Sport and does not condone any attempts to commit or conceal such offences.
- 9.4 Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to disciplinary actions if found guilty of IM offenses.
- 9.5 AusTriathlon procedures regarding the investigation and management of Intentional Misrepresentation follow the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation and Data Protection.

- 9.6 AusTriathlon will cooperate and expects the cooperation of their members with any Classification investigative process.
- 9.7 AusTriathlon will recognise, respect and enforce any disciplinary action recommended or imposed on an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel for IM as notified by the IPC, WT, PA or other authorised body across all levels of Triathlon competition.

#### **Levels of IM**

- 9.8 There are two recognised levels of IM in Australia:
- Those relating to Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are recognised under the jurisdiction of an IF's Classification Rules (referred to as **International Level Intentional Misrepresentation**). This typically includes those Athletes that are classified, or attempt to be classified, and/or compete, or attempt to compete, at an International Level and those Athlete Support Personnel who support them; and
  - Those relating to Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are recognised exclusively under the NSO/NSOD Classification Rules (referred to as **National Level Intentional Misrepresentation**). This includes those Athletes that are classified, or attempt to be classified, or compete, or attempt to compete, at a National Level and those Athlete Support Personnel who support them<sup>1</sup>.

#### **International Level IM**

- 9.9 Allegations of, investigations in to and any subsequent sanctions of IM for Athletes or Athlete Support Personnel recognised under the jurisdiction of WT follow the processes outlined by WT.
- 9.10 If AusTriathlon, an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel or any other person under AusTriathlon jurisdiction holds genuine evidence that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has attempted IM, it must report such evidence to WT for consideration.

#### **National Level IM**

- 9.11 Complaints handling, investigations and, where applicable, recommendations for sanctioning will be referred to PA, in accordance with the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation and Data Protection.
- 9.12 IM, as defined in these Classification Rules, is deemed to be Competition Manipulation as defined in the AusTriathlon Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Policy.
- 9.13 The NST - General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level IM Appeals. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable NST Legislation.

---

<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, IM complaints relating to Athletes or Athlete Support Personnel who are recognised under the jurisdiction of both WT and AusTriathlon Classification Rules, shall follow WT Classification Rules.

## **Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information**

### **Classification Data**

- 10.1 AusTriathlon will only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is reasonably necessary to conduct Classification. If AusTriathlon is not sure if the Data submitted by an Athlete is necessary to conduct Classification they will not Process that Data, will inform the Athlete of the receipt of that information, and subsequently destroy the Data.
- 10.2 All Classification Data Processed by AusTriathlon will be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **Consent and Processing**

- 10.3 Subject to Article 10.5, AusTriathlon will only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 10.4 If an Athlete cannot provide written consent (for example because the Athlete is under age 18) the Athlete's parent or legal guardian must give consent on their behalf.
- 10.5 AusTriathlon may only Process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with applicable laws and codes.

### **Classification Research**

- 10.6 AusTriathlon may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 10.7 The use by AusTriathlon of Personal and/or sensitive Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 10.8 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to AusTriathlon solely and exclusively for Research Purposes will not be used for any other purpose.
- 10.9 AusTriathlon will only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If AusTriathlon wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain express consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not, and may not be used to, identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information and or sensitive Personal Information.

### **Notification to Athletes**

- 10.10 AusTriathlon will notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - that fact that AusTriathlon is collecting the Classification Data; and
  - the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

## **Classification Data Security**

10.11 AusTriathlon will:

- protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
- take reasonable steps to ensure that any party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

## **Disclosures of Classification Data**

10.12 AusTriathlon will not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable laws and codes.

10.13 Any suspected breaches will follow the procedures outlined in the AusTriathlon Privacy Policy.

## **Retaining Classification Data**

10.14 AusTriathlon will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as the Athlete remains active in Paratriathlon. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.

10.15 AusTriathlon Classifiers and Classification Personnel will retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

## **Access Rights to Classification Data**

10.16 Athletes may request from AusTriathlon:

- confirmation of whether or not AusTriathlon has processed Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- a copy of the Classification Data held by AusTriathlon and/or
- correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by AusTriathlon.

10.17 A request may be made by an Athlete or their legal representative and will be complied with within a reasonable period of time.



## **Classification Masterlists**

- 10.18 AusTriathlon will maintain a Classification Masterlist of Athletes, which will include the Athlete's name, sex, year of birth, state of residence, Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 10.19 The Classification Masterlist will include and clearly delineate Classifications allocated by AusTriathlon and those allocated by WT.
- 10.20 The AusTriathlon Classification Masterlist is available to all relevant members and Competition organisers via the AusTriathlon website.
- 10.21 Classification Masterlists will be updated by AusTriathlon following each Athlete Evaluation within 2 months after the Classification opportunity has taken place.
- 10.22 These Rules are subject at all times to the AusTriathlon Privacy Policy and to all applicable privacy legislation, including the Privacy Act and nothing in these Rules will prevent an Athlete accessing all available rights under such legislation.

## **Part Eleven: National Level Classification Appeals**

### **Appeal**

- 11.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

### **International Level Classification Appeals**

- 11.2 International Level Classification Appeals follow the processes outlined by WT, and not the processes outlined in these Classification Rules.

### **National Level Classification Appeals**

- 11.3 If an Athlete considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a national level Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, they may submit an Appeal.
- 11.4 The NST - General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level Classification Appeals.
- 11.5 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable NST Legislation.

### **Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Appeal**

- 11.6 An Appeal may only be made by an Athlete or their legal representative.

### **Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals**

- 11.7 PA and/or AusTriathlon, in conjunction with the NST where necessary, may issue special ad hoc provisions relating to an Appeal to operate during specific Competitions or circumstances. PA or AusTriathlon, as the case may be, will provide as much notice of the ad hoc provisions as is reasonable in the circumstances.

## Part Twelve: Definitions

**Appeal:** The means by which a complaint that the sports federation has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, a person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by WT) or national or lower level (as defined by AusTriathlon). A reference to an Athlete includes a reference to the Athlete's legal guardian where the context so permits.

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules, so that they may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** Any individual who supports an Athlete, including but not limited to coaches, team staff, medical or para-medical specialists, interpreters, administrators, carers and parents/legal guardians.

**Chief Classifier:** A Classifier appointed by AusTriathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

**Classification or Athlete Classification:** Grouping Athletes in to Sport Classes according to the extent to which their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or their authorised representative to AusTriathlon in connection with Classification.

**Classification Intelligence:** Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

**Classification Masterlist:** A list made available by AusTriathlon that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Complete:** The designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of AusTriathlon.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by AusTriathlon, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel:** Any individuals who act with the authority of AusTriathlon in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

**Classification Rules:** Also referred to as **Classification Rules and Regulations**. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by AusTriathlon in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by a sport federation to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para-Sport.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by AusTriathlon to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which AusTriathlon will assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.



**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities that AusTriathlon deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport governed by AusTriathlon.

**Classification Personnel Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by AusTriathlon.

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance:** The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other diagnostic documentation that enables AusTriathlon to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Health Condition

**Eligibility Assessment:** A process to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment. For Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment, this process is known as National Eligibility process.

**Eligible Impairment:** A Physical, Intellectual or Vision Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Paratriathlon, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

**Evaluation Session:** The session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's Compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Paratriathlon. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A single race, match, game or single sport contest.

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session, save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

**Head of Classification:** A person who may be appointed by AusTriathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for AusTriathlon.

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sport Federation (IF):** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para-Sport by the IPC. World Triathlon (**WT**) is the recognised IF for Paratriathlon.

**International Standards:** Documents complementing the IPC Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**IPC Athlete Classification Code (IPC Code):** The IPC Code document which details the purpose of Classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all sports Classification Systems and sets principles to be applied by all sports within the Paralympic Movement. The IPC Code is supplemented by the International Standards.

**Maintaining Certification:** The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**Major Competition Organiser:** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** A form that an Athlete must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Review:** The process by which AusTriathlon identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by an Athlete for Medical Review.

**NIF:** the suite of integrity-related policies adopted by AusTriathlon which includes the Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Policy, and the Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

**NST:** The National Sports Tribunal established under the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019* (Cth).

**NST Legislation:** The *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019* (Cth), the *National Sports Tribunal Rule 2020* (Cth) and the *National Sports Tribunal (Practice and Procedure) Determination 2021* (Cth).

**Observation Assessment (OA):** A designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

**Observation in Competition:** The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Paralympics Australia (PA):** Paralympics Australia Limited ACN 061 547 957.

**PA Athlete Classification Policy:** The PA document which details the purpose of Classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all Australian sport's Classification Systems. The IPC Code is supplemented by the PA Classification Standards.

**PA Classification Standards:** Complement the PA Classification policy and provide the technical and operational requirements for key Classification areas.

**Para-Sport(s):** All sports for Athletes with a Physical, Intellectual or Vision Impairment, on a Paralympic Games program, or recognised by the IPC.

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

**Physical Impairment:** An Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement and Limb Deficiency.

**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protest:** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

**Protest Form:** The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed by AusTriathlon to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Re-certification:** The process by which AusTriathlon will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies or can regain certification after having lost it.

**Recognised Competition:** A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by AusTriathlon.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by AusTriathlon by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by Paratriathlon.

**Sport Class Status:** A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

**Vision Impairment:** An Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete's vision.

## Part Thirteen: Revisions and Approval History

Date	Version	Details & Approval
Jan – Nov 2023	1	Adapted from PA Classification Rules Template. Approved by Aus Triathlon Board on 19 December 2023

# Appendix One

## Athletes with Physical Impairment

### Introduction

This Appendix outlines the process by which an Athlete with a Physical Impairment will be classified and allocated a Sport Class for Paratriathlon.

### 1 Eligible Impairment Types

- 1.1 In order to be eligible for Paratriathlon, an Athlete must be affected by at least one of the Eligible Impairments listed in the first column of the table below.

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b>  Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.	Spinal cord injury, transverse myelitis, sacral agenesis, spinal tumours, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, Erb's palsy, foot drop, spina bifida or nerve damage.
<b>Limb Deficiency</b>  Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints of the shoulder, upper limb, pelvis or lower limb.	Traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or a sense of bones from birth (for example dysmelia).
<b>Hypertonia</b>  Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, hereditary spastic paraparesis
<b>Ataxia</b>  Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, brain tumour, Frederichs ataxia, spinocerebellar ataxia, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
<b>Athetosis</b>  Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
<b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b>  Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.	Arthrogryposis, talipes equine arts, contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint, joint fusions or other joint movement conditions.

## **2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and MIC Assessment Methodology**

- 2.1 AusTriathlon adopts the MIC outlined in the WT Classification Rules for all Competitions under its jurisdiction.

## **3 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status**

- 3.1 AusTriathlon adopts the Assessment methodology and criteria outlined in the WT Classification Rules for the allocation of Sport Class during National Level Athlete Evaluation.



# Appendix Two

## Athletes with a Vision Impairment

### Introduction

This Appendix outlines the process by which an Athlete with a Vision Impairment will be classified and allocated a Sport Class for Paratriathlon.

AusTriathlon by way of mutual agreement has authorised the management of VI Classification Eligibility Assessment and Athlete Evaluation processes to PA.

### 1 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Vision Impairment</b>  Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage or maldevelopment of the eye structure, optic nerves or visual pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.	Albinism, retinitis pigmentosa, macular or rod cone dystrophy, Stargardts and diabetic retinopathy.

### 2 Eligibility Criteria and Assessment

- 2.1 Athletes must provide sufficient evidence of a Vision Impairment via the VI Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF) available from PA.
- 2.2 MDF may be completed by Orthoptist or Optometrist as long as a diagnostic letter/confirmation from an Ophthalmologist or other relevant medical doctor is included.
- 2.3 An Athlete may provide a Medmont Visual Field as an additional Visual Field Assessment to the ones that are accepted by WT.
- 2.4 An Athlete will be deemed Not Eligible (NE) if they fail to meet the National Eligibility process outlined above.

### 3 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 3.1 Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a Vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's **best corrected** vision, both eyes are tested individually.
- 3.2 AusTriathlon adopts the MIC outlined in the WT Classification Rules for all Competitions under its jurisdiction.

### 4 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

- 4.1 AusTriathlon adopts the Assessment methodology and criteria outlined in the WT Classification Rules for the allocation of Sport Class during National Level Athlete Evaluation with the exceptions of:
  - Classification completed by one national VI Classifier may be allocated Review, Fixed Review Date or Confirmed Status based on their assessment findings.
  - NE or Protest Panel re-evaluations should be conducted by the same number of Classifiers that completed the first or Protested Evaluation, unless otherwise agreed to by all parties.

# Appendix Three: Non-Eligible Impairment Types

## 1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for Para-Sport disciplines

- 1.1 Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:
- Pain;
  - Hearing impairment;
  - Low muscle tone;
  - Hypermobility of joints;
  - Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
  - Impaired muscle endurance;
  - Impaired motor reflex functions;
  - Impaired cardiovascular functions;
  - Impaired respiratory functions;
  - Impaired metabolic functions; and
  - Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.
- 1.2 An Athlete who has one or more of these Non-Eligible Impairments, without the presence of an Eligible Impairment, is not eligible to compete in the Para-Sport Classes offered by AusTriathlon. They may still be able to compete in other AusTriathlon Competition.

## 2 Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment

- 2.1 Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 2.2 The IPC Code considers the following Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Health Conditions that:
- primarily cause pain e.g. fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome;
  - primarily cause fatigue e.g. chronic fatigue;
  - primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or
  - are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature e.g. post traumatic stress disorder or conversion disorders.
- 2.3 Any Athlete who has a Health Condition, but does not have an Eligible Impairment is not eligible to compete in Para-Sport Classes offered by AusTriathlon. They may still be able to compete in other AusTriathlon Competition.