SPORT CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

Introduction

- Swimmer must be a member of Swimming Canada to request classification and a member in good standing on the day of their classification.
- Swimmers must be a Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant. Consideration may be given for special circumstances, by request to Classification Lead.
- Swimming Canada bases its classification process and rules off of the 2018 World Para Swimming (WPS) classification manual. (See Appendix A)
- This classification system includes swimmers with physical, visual and intellectual impairments. Every para-swimmer must meet the eligible impairment (diagnosis) requirements as well establish a minimum impairment criteria. (See Appendix A).
- Swimming Canada has three levels of Domestic classification: Level 1, 2 and 3.
- Each of the impairment categories have specific criteria and procedures that are specific to their impairments.

Request for Sport Class Evaluation

Every classification starts with a request. Request For Sport Class Evaluation are completed online. (See Appendix A)

Coaches/swimmers or caregivers choose:
- Level 1, 2 or 3
- Impairment Category Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment

This request form goes to Swimming Canada’s Classification Lead with a copy to the Coordinator, Domestic Operations. An automated email is sent to an identified classification contact at the swimmer’s Provincial Sport Organization (PSO). The PSO email only identifies the name of the swimmer, club and impairment category.

Overview - Domestic Classification: Level 1, 2 and 3.

Level 1

- An introductory sport classification for all para-swimmers who wish to obtain rule exceptions in order to compete in entry level competitions, but do not yet meet the minimum requirements to be classified at Level 2. (See Appendix A).
- Entry Level Competitions do not require a specific sport class for the purpose of entry standards or to score results. Meets can be can be non-sanctioned, novice, development or regional.
- Swimmers should be in the late FUNdamentals or early Learn-to-Train stage of athlete development and will be attending sanctioned swimming competitions.
- Rule exceptions are necessary for the safety of the swimmer as well as to ensure that their permanent impairment is taken into consideration by the officials at competitions.
- There is no minimum or maximum age criteria.
- Sport Tags at Level 1 all begin with “-PS” and are specific to the impairment category:
-PSPI Para-swimmer Physically Impaired
-PSVI Para-swimmer Visually Impaired
-PSII Para-swimmer Intellectually Impaired

**Level 2**
- This is a swimmer’s first introduction to a specific sport class.
- Swimmers requiring Level 2 classification are starting to compete in sanctioned competitions and meet the requirements listed below for Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments.
  - Swimmers must be a minimum of 12 years of age or have the permission of the Swimming Canada’s Classification Lead.
  - Swimmers should be in the Learn-to-Train or Train-to-Train stage of athlete development and will be attending sanctioned swimming competitions.
  - Swimmers should be technically ready. (Link at end of document)
- The allocated sport class consists of 4 components:
  - “S” Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly
  - “SB” Breaststroke
  - “SM” Individual Medley
  - Rule exceptions as required

**Level 3**
- Swimmers requiring Level 3 classification are starting to compete at national level competitions and Canada Games.
- Requirements for Level 3 Classification include:
  - Swimmers must be a minimum of 13 years of age
  - Swimmers should be in the Train-to-Train or the Train-to-Compete stage of athlete development and will be attending sanctioned swimming competitions.
  - Swimmers must provide adequate supporting medical documentation

**SPORT CLASS EVALUATIONS:**

**Physical Impairment (PI)**

**Level 1**
- Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
- Complete the Classification Sheet Level 1 Form.
- Eligible swimmers will be awarded a Level 1 sport class and rule exceptions Swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified by email.
- Swimmers not eligible will receive an explanatory email. Swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified by email.
- If more information is required in order to determine rule exceptions, an email will be sent directly to the applicant.
- No review date is given
• Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR. (See Appendix A)

Level 2
• Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
• Swimmer/parent/guardian completes the Medical Diagnosis Form (MDF).
• Swimmer/parent/guardian will be contacted and informed of the next available Level 2 classification opportunity in their province.
• Following the classification evaluation (which includes a physical and technical assessment), a Level 2 sport class will be allocated.
• Swimmers assigned sport-class NE (Not Eligible) will receive an explanatory email.
Swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified by email. They will be given a review status for the following year.
• Swimmers under the age of 18 will be assigned an age review.
• Swimmers over the age of 18 who have a degenerative condition will be given a review date as appropriate to their physical impairment.
• Swimmers who are deemed not to have enough technical swimming skill to be assigned a sport class will maintain their level 1 status with appropriate rule exceptions
• They may reapply using the Request For Sport Class Evaluation when they have the required swimming skill(s).
• Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment requirements and are deemed to be Not Eligible (NE) will be given a review date or they can make a new Sport Class Request.
• Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR. (See Appendix A)

Level 3
• Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
• The swimmer/parent/guardian will be contacted to inform them of the available classification opportunity that season
• Swimmers will be allocated a classification spot at their selected opportunity. Scheduling information will be sent in a timely manner after the entry deadline.
• Following the sport class evaluation (which includes a physical assessment, technical assessment and observation assessment), a Level 3 sport class will be allocated.
• Swimmers must be entered in the following First Appearance Events:
  o Sport Class S6-10 - 400 freestyle
  o Sport Class S1-5 – 200 freestyle
  o Sport Class SB4-9 – 100 breaststroke
  o Sport Class SB1-3 – 50 breaststroke
• Swimmers under the age of 18 will be assigned an age review.
• Swimmers over the age of 18 who have a degenerative condition will be given a review date as deemed appropriate for their physical impairment.
- Swimmers who are deemed not to have enough technical swimming skill to be assigned a Level 3 sport class will retain their Level 2 sport class and may reapply using the Request For Sport Class Evaluation when they have the required skills.
- Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment criteria and are deemed to be Not Eligible (NE) will be given a review date or they can make a new Sport Class Evaluation Request providing that they have new documentation that supports an eligible sport class status.
- Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified. Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR. (See Appendix A)

**Visual Impairment (VI)**

**Level 1**
- Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
- Complete the Classification Sheet Level 1 Form.
- Level 1 sport class will be allocated and a letter of rule exceptions will be issued to the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization. If more information is required in order to determine rule exceptions, an email will be sent directly to the applicant.
- No review date is given
- Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR. (See Appendix A)

**Level 2**
- Completes a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
- Swimmer/parent/guardian completes the Level 2 Visual Impairment Classification Form, the Visual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form and the Classification Information Form for Athletes with a Visual Impairment.
- Once the Visual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form, Level 2 Visual Impairment Classification Form and the Classification Information Form for Athletes with a Visual Impairment are completed they are submitted to the Classification Lead.
- In cooperation with Canadian Blind Sports Association the Level 2 Visual Impairment Classification Form is evaluated by a classifier who has been trained by World Para Swimming as a classifier for the visually impaired.
- Sport class is provisional and a 2 year review date will be given.
- At the end of two years the Level 2 sport class will expire and the swimmer must request a new Level 2 or Level 3 evaluation.
- Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment criteria and are deemed to be Not Eligible (NE) may be allocated a review date or they can make a new Sport Class Evaluation Request, providing that they have new medical documentation that supports an eligible sport class status.
- Following the review of documentation and determination of eligibility, a Level 2 sport class will be allocated.
• Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified. (See Appendix A)

**Level 3**
• Swimmers with an expiring Level 2 VI sport class may apply for a level 3 evaluation.
• Swimmer/parent/guardian completes a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
• Swimmers Visual Impairment Classification requires a physical exam by an ophthalmologist who is trained as a classifier.
• Visual impairment classification is the testing of their best corrected visual acuity and field of vision.
• Classification requires swimmers to travel at their own expense to the classification opportunity.
• Opportunities are arranged by Swimming Canada through the Canadian Blind Sports Association.
• Following the review of documentation and determination of eligibility, a Level 3 sport class will be allocated.
• Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment criteria and are deemed to be Not Eligible (NE) will be given a review date for the opportunity for a second panel.
• Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified. Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR (See Appendix A)
• Swimmers under the age of 18 will be assigned an age review.

**Intellectual Impairment (II)**

**Level 1**
• Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
• Complete the Classification Sheet Level 1 Form.
• Level 1 sport class will be allocated and an email of notification will be sent to the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization.
• No review date is given
• Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR. (See Appendix A)

**Level 2**
• Completes a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
• Swimmer/parent/guardian completes the Level 2 Intellectual Impairment Classification Sheet form, the Intellectual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form and the Classification Information Form for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment.
• Once the Level 2 Intellectual Impairment Classification Sheet form, the Intellectual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form and the Classification Information Form For Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment are completed, they are to be emailed to Classification lead for evaluation.
Following the review of documentation and determination of eligibility, a Level 2 sport class will be allocated.

Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment criteria and are assigned the sport class Not Eligible (NE) will be able to make a new Sport Class Evaluation Request providing that they have new documentation that supports an eligible status.

Swimmers under the age of 18 will be assigned an age review.

Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified. Swimming Canada Staff will amend the sport class information in the RTR (See Appendix A)

**Level 3**

- Complete a Request For Sport Class Evaluation
- Swimmer/parent/guardian will be sent a Level 3 Intellectual Impairment Classification Sheet to be completed by an accredited medical professional (psychologist or neuropsychologist) and the Intellectual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form.
- When submitting a request for Level 3 Intellectual Impairment classification the supplied supporting documentation must not be more than 5 years old.
- Once the Level 3 Intellectual Impairment Classification Sheet and the Intellectual Impairment Sport Class Consent Form are completed, they are to be emailed to Classification Lead.
- Following the review of documentation and determination of eligibility, a Level 3 sport class will be allocated. Sport class data will be posted on the Swimming Canada Para-Swimming Classification Database and the swimmer/parent/guardian as well as the club and provincial swimming organization will be notified.
- Swimmers who do not meet the minimum impairment criteria and are assigned the sport class Not Eligible (NE) will be given a review date and will be able to make a new Sport Class Evaluation Request providing that they have new documentation that supports an eligible sport class status.
- Swimmers under the age of 18 will be assigned an age review.
- At age 18 (or the date of the age review) the swimmer must submit a new Level 3 request complete with supporting documentation no more than 5 years old at the time of submission.
APPENDIX A


- CLASSIFICATION PROCESS
- REQUEST FOR SPORT CLASS EVALUATION (ONLINE FORM)
- PARA-SWIMMING ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS
- PARA-SWIMMING CLASSIFICATION DATABASE
- GUIDELINES FOR “NEW” INTERNATIONAL SPORT CLASSIFICATION
- 2018 WORLD PARA SWIMMING RULES AND REGULATIONS
- CODES OF EXCEPTION

Technical Assessment Level 2 Physical Impairment

Technical Assessment Level 3 Physical Impairment