



## BOARD POLICY

**Policy Section:** Board of Directors  
**Policy Subsection:** Sport Development  
**Policy Title:** Para-swimming & Paralympic Programs

### Policy Statement

Swimming Canada promotes and develops a swimming system that is welcoming and accommodating to athletes with physical, intellectual and visual impairments.

### Background

In 1993 Swimming Canada partnered with Sport Canada and the Canadian Federation of Sports for the Disabled (now the Canadian Paralympic Committee), to undertake the governance and development of a national team for swimmers with an impairment. The integration included all aspects of Swimming Canada's programming from coaching education and development to athlete services and competitions at the high performance level. Swimming Canada has since expanded that mandate to include the development of, and the integration of athletes with impairments at all levels of the organization, including appropriate athlete development, coaching education and professional development, officials including classifier development, competition, and national and international teams.

### Purpose:

Swimming Canada will ensure that swimmers with a physical, intellectual or visual impairment, as defined by WPS/IPC, have a clear and supported pathway of development through the sport of swimming. This is consistent with Swimming Canada's belief that every Canadian should be afforded the opportunity to participate in the activity of swimming, from learn to swim to high performance.

### Application

Swimming Canada recognizes that the delivery of development programs, including opportunities for swimmers with impairments, occurs at the club, regional, provincial and national level, and with our learn to swim partners. The access for children and adults with impairments is through these avenues.

Through research and consultation, Swimming Canada will develop policies and an athlete development framework that is inclusive in language and application, and promotes the participation of athletes with impairments at all levels.

Working with any and all national and international partners in Paralympic sport and para-swimming, Swimming Canada will promote an inclusive para-swimming development framework, and overcome barriers to inclusivity change at all levels. All Swimming Canada education and certification programs, directed at officials, coaches, parents and club development, will be consistent with and support the para-swimming strategy.

### Responsibility

Organization	Action
Board – Sport Development Policy Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure that all policies of the Board related to sport development are aligned with the principles of participation of athletes with impairments.</li><li>2. Evaluate the progress of the milestones/goals and programs of para-swimming.</li></ol>



CEO

1. Ensure that the operations of the organization, across the all divisions, takes into consideration and promotes the inclusion and participation of athletes with impairments.
2. Promote the participation in the Paralympic movement internally and externally.
3. Develop a reporting and evaluation system that regularly monitors the inclusion and effectiveness of all domestic development programming and competition in para-swimming.
4. Ensure that consideration and attention to all operational divisions include components and materials for swimmers with an impairment.

## References

## Review & Approval

Approval: September 29, 2016  
Reviewed and Approved: March 23, 2021