



Challenges of International Classification



World Para Swimming (WPS) administers all international classification

It's Complicated

There's a long waitlist for international classification, not only in Canada, but around the world. Simply, WPS doesn't have enough classifiers or classification opportunities to meet the demand. International classification slots are extremely valuable so Swimming Canada is forced to strategize who gets a slot. Each year Swimming Canada applies to WPS with a "wish list" number of slots and are granted any percentage of that. Slots are unequally divided between WPS events.

Lots to Consider

Slot Allocation: the number of classification slots WPS gives Canada annually. These are subdivided into PI, VI, and II slots.

Reviews: Due to any variety of reasons, many swimmers are given fixed date reviews meaning they must be reclassified in that given year to continue competing internationally. They have first priority.

New: Swimmers being internationally classified for the first time. WPS provides Canada limited numbers of "new" slots annually, and some years, none. Swimmers showing the highest development potential are given priority.

For more information:

Guidelines for "New" International Sport Classifications:
<https://www.swimming.ca/content/uploads/2022/02/Guidelines-for-New-International-Sport-Classifications-Feb-2022.pdf>

