

Para Athletes (Athletes with Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments)

- Events offered are **100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 4x100m Relay (mixed classification/age/gender), discus, shot put, javelin, high jump, triple jump and long jump.**

Classification

Athletes with Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments competing at the 2023 North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in Palmerston North **are required** to have a Provisional or National Classification. Classification ensures that athletes meet impairment eligibility and have an activity limitation

Athletes who **do not have** a Provisional or National Classification will need to have completed one of the Provisional Classification forms (Physical, Intellectual or Visual Impairment, whichever is the most appropriate one) available on the Athletics NZ website www.athletics.org.nz or the NZSSAA website www.nzssaa.org.nz in the North Island Championships information.

This form needs to be forwarded to rebecca@athletics.org.nz as soon as possible and no later than 17 March.

Classifications and Competition

Para Athletes will have a track classification (T) and a field classification (F). The following track and field classifications relate to the following impairments.

T11 – T13 and F11 – F13	Visual Impairment (VI)
T20 and F20	Intellectual Impairment (II)
T32 – T38 and F31 – F38	Cerebral Palsy and Neurological Impairments (CP)
T40 - T41 and F40 - F41	Short Stature (SS)
T42 – T47 and F42 – F46	Amputees and Other Impairments (AO)
T51 – T54 and F51 – F57	Wheelchair and throwing frame user (WC)
T61 – T64 and F61 - 64	Athletes who compete using prosthetic lower limbs (PL)

There will be two competition divisions, Para Athletes with Intellectual Impairment (**II**) and Para Athletes with Physical Impairment, including Para Athletes with Visual Impairment (**PI**). Within the Para Athletes with Physical Impairment division will be the 6 groups above (excluding II T20 and F20)

For the PI classification the results and placings will be calculated on a percentage of the world record for each classification. It will enable athletes with different impairments, cerebral palsy, vision, stature etc., to be fairly compared and compete for the PI medal and title in their event/s.

The II classification will be for athletes with an intellectual impairment (cognitive impairment) rather than athletes with specific learning impairments e.g. difficulty with reading. Generally these athletes will be ORS funded or be potentially eligible for ORS funding.

The following events will be included: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 800, 1500, shot put, discus, javelin, triple jump, long jump (metre mat will not be used) and high jump.

Please Note:

- Students with specific learning disabilities may not be eligible for classification.
- Hearing Impaired athletes are not eligible for classification as physical abilities are comparable to that of their peers. However adequate provision should be made to ensure starting mechanisms are in place to allow for equal competition.
- Athletes with adequate residual vision to compete evenly with fully sighted peers will

be encouraged to do so.

- Athletes with behavioural problems and without intellectual or physical impairment do not have a physical functional limitation compared to their peers and will be ineligible for classification.
- Some athletes may have multiple disabilities therefore teachers are to register students into the classification where the functional limitation is the greatest. For example a student may have an intellectual disability as well having di-plegic cerebral palsy severely affecting his balance and coordination – this pupil will be placed in the CP Classification. A student may also have ADHD and also an Intellectual disability - this student would be eligible for II classification.

Ages

There will be two age groups for each classification, junior (below 16) and senior (16 and above) on 1 January 2023.

It is important to note that students with a disability who are ORS funded are entitled to stay at secondary school until the age of 21.

If you require any further information on classification for Para Athletes please email:

rebecca@athleticsnz.org.nz or oe@nzssaa.org.nz