

# **SCOTTISH DISABILITY SPORT – CLASSIFICATION**

## **Athletes and players with a learning disability (Version 8.5)**

### **Introduction**

Classification provides a structure for competition to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes. Classification has two important roles:

- ❖ To determine eligibility to compete
- ❖ To group athletes and players for competition

There is only one international class for each specific sport for athletes with a learning disability. Each sport within the IPC programme has a sports class which is identified by a letter and number as follows:

- ❖ Swimming - S14
- ❖ Athletics (Track) - T20
- ❖ Athletics (Field) - F20
- ❖ Table Tennis - T11

Athletes with a learning disability (intellectual impairment) must provide evidence that they have an eligible impairment that impacts on athletic performance.

# Classification explained



## 1. Scotland – Scottish Disability Sport

- ❖ Access to SDS competitive events for athletes and players with a learning disability, since the mid 70s, has been based entirely on trust. Schools, college, centre and club representatives determine the eligibility of an individual to participate. This decision is based on competition qualifying criteria. At junior level the decision on whether a pupil is eligible will be confirmed by school staff and only if necessary by an Educational Psychologist. At senior level Social Services, Health Services or Voluntary Organisation personnel may be called in if confirmation of eligibility is required. No formal assessment or supporting evidence is required by SDS.
- ❖ Scottish athletes and players with a learning disability who produce performances that indicate they have the potential to move forward and challenge for representative honours at GB, UK, INAS or IPC level, transfer to the UK system of classification evaluation. The decision on who should move forward to this higher level of classification rests with the individuals who are involved in the performance programme for the specific sport.

## 2. Great Britain and the United Kingdom

United Kingdom offers two levels of classification for performance athletes and players:

- ❖ UK Level classification for competitions within the UK only.
- ❖ International Level for competitions organised under the jurisdiction of INAS-FID or the IPC.

Scottish Disability Sport is responsible for the preparation and submission of applications to UKSA and INAS-FID (through UKSA) for Scottish athletes. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) manages UK and International level classifications for all UK athletes. For athletes and swimmers with a Learning Disability applications for INAS-FID are sent directly to British Athletics & British Swimming to process onto UKSA.



## 2.1 UK Level Classification

Committed performance athletes and players with a learning disability, who are successful within their Home Country, but have yet to record GB or International qualifying performances should pursue the UK Level Classification. This Level of classification is valid for UK athletes who compete in UK competitions only. A UK Level classification is not obligatory for all UK competitions. It is important that the entry form and more specifically the qualifying criteria are checked.

All Scottish applications for UK Level Classifications are submitted to UKSA through SDS. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability expects submissions from SDS to be lodged with UKSA at least FOUR weeks prior to the closing date for entries for the competition at which the athlete plans to compete. The submission of a UK Level Classification application is no guarantee that a classification will be granted.

Only athletes who have been classified on the UK system since January 1st 2009 will hold a valid UK classification. The fee for UKSA application is £35.

- ❖ Download UK classification form, eligibility criteria and guidance notes by copying this link:  
[http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete\\_classification/UK\\_Classification\\_Form\\_From\\_February\\_22\\_2011.pdf](http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete_classification/UK_Classification_Form_From_February_22_2011.pdf)
- ❖ UKSA Guide for Psychologists available by copying this link::  
[http://www.uksportsassociation.org/resources/Info\\_Sheet\\_Guide\\_for\\_Psychologists.pdf](http://www.uksportsassociation.org/resources/Info_Sheet_Guide_for_Psychologists.pdf)



## 2.2 International Level Classification

Performance athletes with the potential to reach GB National and International standards in their sport should access the International Level Classification. International Level Classification is also required for swimmers who wish to compete in Long Course swimming competitions organised by British Para-Swimming.

INAS (International) classification applications for swimmers with intellectual disability will be co-ordinated through British Para-Swimming who will support the collation and completion of applications in preparation for submission to the UK Sports Association. This will still be collated and sent to British Para-Swimming through SDS.

UKSA will continue to monitor, evaluate and co-ordinate applications with INAS as part of their remit as the official British member of INAS. It should also be noted that providing a UK (UKSA) or INAS (International) application is in progress a swimmer can enter the SDS National Performance Championships as a guest.

Once the classification has been approved by UKSA and/or INAS the swimmer will be able to enter National events, within the S14 classification.

Scottish applications, through SDS, should reach UKSA (for Athletics & Table Tennis) or British Para-Swimming at least FIVE months prior to the closing date for entry to any competition at which the athlete hopes to compete. The submission of an International level application through SDS to UKSA is no guarantee of a classification being granted.

In February 2010, INAS-FID released a new international classification form for the primary eligibility check -Stage 1 application. As with previous submissions, psychologists have to be engaged to complete two specific athlete assessments to satisfy the requirements of an International Level Classification application.

The coach of each athlete is required to complete the Training History & Sport Activity Limitations Questionnaire (TSAL). The TSAL replaces the previous SIC-Q. The TSAL does not form part of the eligibility

checking process but is an important tool to aid the development of the sports specific classification process.

INAS-FID has produced a TSAL online version. Where possible, the coach should use the online version. When access to the online facility is not possible a paper version may be completed. If a hard copy (paper version) of the TSAL is required it should be downloaded and submitted with the classification application.

- ❖ Download the INAS Classification Form (Feb 2010) by copying this link:

<http://www.inas.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Reg-form-v3-Feb10.pdf>

- ❖ Download the INAS Classification Data Protection Statement by copying this link:

[http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete\\_classification/INAS\\_Classification\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Statement\\_for\\_UK\\_applicants.pdf](http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete_classification/INAS_Classification_Data_Protection_Statement_for_UK_applicants.pdf)

- ❖ Complete the TSAL online version by copying this link:

<https://spreadsheets0.google.com/a/inas.org/viewform?hl=en&hl=en&formkey=dDVQbmlpa2lyMIhSQUpVZVUtNHHiQ3c6MQ&ndplr=1>

### **2.3 Further Guidance on international classification**

- ❖ To read the INAS-FID Classification Guidance Notes copy this link:

<http://www.inas.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Reg-form-Guidance-Notes-Feb10.pdf>

- ❖ To download and read the UKSA Guide for Psychologists copy this link:

[http://www.uksportsassociation.org/resources/Info\\_Sheet\\_Guide\\_for\\_Psychologists.pdf](http://www.uksportsassociation.org/resources/Info_Sheet_Guide_for_Psychologists.pdf)

- ❖ To read the INAS-FID Eligibility and Classification Policy copy this link:

<http://www.inas.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/4.1-Eligibility-Classification-Policy.pdf>

## **2.4 Classification in more than one sport**

Athlete classification for more than one sport is only relevant for the International Level Classification at this time. To compete in more than one sport at international level, an athlete is required to submit separate classification applications for each sport. A Scottish athlete must complete the additional sport application form and pro-forma and submit to UKSA through SDS observing standard timeframe for International Level Classification submissions. Document one and two must be completed and submitted to INAS-FID for consideration for the process to be successful.

- ❖ To download the INAS-FID additional sport application form follow this link:

<http://www.inas.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Additional-Sport-Form-Feb10.pdf>

- ❖ To download the UKSA Pro-forma for additional sport application follow this link:

[http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete\\_classification/UKSA\\_Pro-forma\\_for\\_Additional\\_Sport\\_Application.pdf](http://www.uksportsassociation.org/athlete_classification/UKSA_Pro-forma_for_Additional_Sport_Application.pdf)

## **2.5 Classification management**

The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) holds the central database for all United Kingdom athletes who have been successfully classified at UK or international level. The INAS-FID master list of all athletes who have submitted and INAS-FID application can be accessed here

<http://www.inas.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Master-List-21.02.2014.pdf>

Classification cards are no longer issued when an athlete or player's classification is verified. A letter is sent to each Scottish athlete from UKSA with a copy sent to SDS with the outcome of the classification submission. SDS retains a central database of all classification

outcomes but UKSA and INASA-FID retain the official databases for all athletes classified. If there is doubt about the status of an athlete or you require further guidance or would like to information about the classification process for Scottish athletes then contact the SDS Performance Manager.

## **2.6 Primary Eligibility Criteria**

Three criteria must be met for an athlete to be classified at UK or international level as an athlete with a "learning disability".

- Evidence of IQ - a full scale score of 75 or lower on a recognised and professionally administered IQ test.
- Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour - a measure of how learning disability affects both daily life and the ability to respond to life changes and environmental demands - conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills
- Evidence of age of onset pre 18 - must be able to demonstrate that the learning disability was evident before the athlete was 18 years of age.

An athlete must complete a UK or international application form and submit evidence in support of the application. To provide the evidence required in each section, an athlete must provide a series of reports with results from professionally administered tests carried out by a valid HPC registered professional psychologist.

For International Level classifications (INASA-FID), these criteria and evidence are only the first stage. This is known as the "Primary Eligibility checks". An athlete must meet the requirements of stage 1 before they can proceed to stage 2. Stage 2 of the international classification process is called the "Sports Specific Classification".

Successfully completing the primary eligibility checks of the international process is no guarantee that an athlete will meet the requirements of sports specific classification.

When submitting the paperwork for either a UKSA or INASA classification application form, a Home Country checklist will be

completed by the SDS Performance Manager and included with the documentation.

## **2.7 Sports Specific Classification**

### **Procedure**

This is the second stage of the international (INAS-FID) classification process. The sports specific classification process is currently under development. This new work is being managed by the Joint INAS-FID and IPC Working Group as part of the agreement for athletes with learning disability to being included in the Paralympic Games.

An athlete will only be considered for the sports specific classification if the athlete has successfully completed stage 1 and the eligibility check.

- Swimmers need to be nominated to stage 2 classification by British Swimming which is conducted at International meets.
- Athletes need to be nominated to stage 2 classification by British Athletics which is conducted at International meets.

Stage 2 classification will require the athlete to undergo on site testing by a classification panel appointed by the International Federation responsible for the specific sport.

On site testing will focus on how the athlete's learning disability impacts on their ability to perform in their sport. The tests will gather "sports intelligence" on the athlete to assist the classification panel arrive at a decision.

Sports intelligence will include information on reasoning, working memory and learning, visual spatial perception, reaction time and processing speed, attention and concentration and executive function.

The tests will be evaluated against sport specific minimal disability scores. An athlete must meet the minimal disability scores to be eligible to compete.



### **3. Scottish Disability Sport procedures for applications.**

#### **3.1 The Role of SDS Personnel and Others**

The SDS Performance Manager will coordinate applications for UKSA and INAS registrations on behalf of Scottish athletes and players. All submissions to UKSA must be signed off by the Performance Manager before they are submitted to UKSA.

Athletes and players with a Learning Disability who are identified as meeting the level of performance as outlined in 2.1 and 2.2 will be put forward for application to the Performance Manager who will, in discussion with the sports specific contact, determine what level of performance they are achieving and whether they would be meet the criteria to be put forward for classification. The SDS Regional Managers will assist with this process. The key personnel are as follows:

Performance Manager – Gary Fraser

Highland and Islands – Charlie Forbes

Grampian – Claire McDonald

Central Scotland – Cheryl Willet

SDS Fife branch – Richard Brickley MBE

Tayside – Jennifer Scally

East of Scotland – Neal Herbert

West of Scotland – Lori Ure & Lynn Alison

Scottish Swimming – Paul Wilson

Scottish Athletics – Ian Mirfin

Table Tennis – Terry McLernon MBE

Additions to this group may be made as and when required.

- ❖ The process of classification of athletes is led by the Regional Development Manager with support from the Performance

Manager. The Performance Manager and/or Regional Development Manager can advise on psychologist to use and protocol to follow.

