

IPC Athletics Classification Explained

Classes are structured accordingly:

“T” plus a number signifies a track class and “F” plus a number signifies a field class.

- Sport classes T11, T12 and T13 or F11, F12 and F13 involve athletes with a visual impairment.
- Sport Classes T31-T38 and F31-F38 include athletes with cerebral palsy, head injury or stroke.
- Sport Classes T41-T46 and F41 to F46 include athletes with amputations or similar impairments (les autres)
- Sport Classes T51-T58 and F51 to F58 include athletes with varying levels of spinal cord injury, plus some athletes with amputations, musculoskeletal impairments and congenital anomalies (les autres)

Track and Field Classes Explained:

Athletes with a visual impairment:

- T11/F11: The visual impairment of an athlete in this class may range from no light perception in either eye to light perception but with the inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
- T12/F12: The athlete may have the ability to recognise the shape of a hand and have a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or visual field of less than 5 degrees. (2/60 means that a person can see at 2m what is normally seen at 60m).
- T13/F13: The visual acuity of the athlete ranges from 2/60 to 6/60 and/or has a visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees.

Athletes with cerebral palsy, head injury or stroke:

- T32/F32: Athletes in this class have poor functional strength in arms, legs and trunk but are able to propel a wheelchair. Athletes compete in a wheelchair and may throw a club or discus from a throwing frame.
- T33/F33: The athlete in this class demonstrates some degree of trunk movement when pushing a wheelchair but forward trunk movement is limited during forceful pushing. Throwing movements are mainly from the arm. Athletes compete in a wheelchair or from a throwing frame.
- T34/F34: The athlete in this class demonstrates good functional strength with minimal limitation or control problems in the arms or trunk. Athletes compete in a wheelchair or from a throwing frame
- F35/F35: An athlete in this class has good static balance but exhibits problems in dynamic balance. A shift of centre of gravity may lead to loss of balance. The athlete may need assistive devices for walking but not when standing or throwing. Athletes may have sufficient lower extremity function to run on the track or execute a run up when throwing.
- T36/F36: Athletes in this class are able to walk without assistance or assistive devices. They have more control problems with their upper than lower limbs and they have better leg function than class T/F35 athletes. All four limbs are involved and dynamic is often better than static balance. Hand control, grasp and release are affected when throwing.
- T37/F37: Athletes in this class have spasticity in an arm and leg on the same side. They have good functional ability on the non impaired side of the body, better development, good arm and hand control and follow through. Athletes walk without assistance and often with a limp. When the athlete runs the limp may disappear totally.
- T38/F38: Athletes in this class must meet the minimum disability criteria for athletes with cerebral palsy, head injury or stroke. During classification evaluation athletes must demonstrated a limitation in function that impacts on sports performance.

Athletes with amputations or equivalent:

- T42 and F42: Athletes have a single above knee amputation or impairments that are equivalent to an amputation above the knee.
- T43 and F43: Athletes have double below knee amputations or impairments that are equivalent to a double below knee amputations.
- T44 and F44: Athletes have a single below knee amputation or impairments that are equivalent to a single below knee amputation.
- T45 and F45: Athletes have double arm amputations above or below the elbow or equivalent impairments.
- T46 and F46: Athletes have a single above or below elbow amputation or impairments that are equivalent to a single arm amputation.

Athletes with a spinal cord injury or equivalent impairments:

- T51 and F51: Athletes in this class have a weakness in shoulder function and the ability to bend but not straighten the elbow joint. Athletes have no trunk or leg function, no movement in the fingers but can bend the wrists backwards but not forwards.
- T52 and F52: Athletes in this class have good shoulder, elbow and wrist function but poor to normal finger flexion and extension. Athletes have no trunk or leg function.
- T53 and F53: Athletes in this class have normal upper limb function but no abdominal, leg or lower spinal function.
- T54: Athletes in this class have normal upper limb function and partial to normal trunk function. Athletes may have significant function of the lower limbs.
- F54: Athletes in this class have normal upper limb function but no abdominal or lower spinal function.
- F55: Athletes in this class have normal upper limb function and they may have partial to almost completely normal trunk function. Athletes have no leg function.
- F56: Athletes have normal upper limb and trunk function and some leg function. Athletes may have high bilateral above knee amputation.
- F57: Athletes have normal upper limb and trunk function and increased leg function in comparison with F56 athletes. Athletes may have bilateral above knee amputations.
- F58: Athletes have normal upper limb and trunk function. Athletes with a bilateral below knee amputation or single above knee amputation compete in this class.