

Who can request EA National Classification?

Athletes with impairment can lodge a request to undergo a Classification Evaluation for the purpose of the competing in Para Equestrian competition run under Equestrian Australia Rules. Athletes need to be a current financial member of Equestrian Australia.

What are the eligibility requirements?

All Athletes with impairment who intend to be classified must produce a Certificate of Diagnosis stating their full medical diagnosis. Each Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment that leads to permanent and verifiable activity limitation which can be measured objectively. Athletes with a minimal Impairment must meet the Para-Equestrian **Minimal Impairment Criteria** in order to compete in Para-Equestrian Events.

Eligible impairments include:

Hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis; impaired passive range of movement; impaired muscle power; limb deficiency; leg length difference; short stature, vision impairment.

For more information about eligibility requirements and Minimal Impairment Criteria refer to the FEI Classification Manual which can be downloaded from:

<http://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/FEI%20Para%20Equestrian%20Classification%20Manual%20Final.pdf>

What is the Classification Process?

All Athletes with impairment who intend to enter EA Para-Equestrian competitions must proceed through the Classification procedure as below:

Step 1.	<p>Athletes with a Physical Impairment or Vision Impairment apply to EA requesting a Classification evaluation for PE Competition. The following is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed EA Classification Request Form available on the EA website • For Athletes with a Physical Impairment only - a completed and signed EA Certificate of Diagnosis Form and any additional supporting medical documentation <p><i>Note: For Athletes with a Vision Impairment – EA will pass on the application to the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) who will then arrange classification in a similar way to the steps outlined below.</i></p>
Step 2.	<p>The Athlete sends the completed forms and supporting documentation to EA who then determine if the Athlete meets the Eligibility Criteria described above. EA will then either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve or Not Approve the request based on the information provided OR • Request further information to support the diagnosis and impairment which may include additional medical documentation such as reports or copies of medical investigations or • Approve or Not Approve the request following further information provided
Step 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA will inform the Athlete in writing of the decision regarding their application. If the Request for Classification has not been approved the reason why will be provided. • For approved applications, an EA Consent Form will then need to be completed by the Athlete and sent to EA
Step 4.	<p>EA will notify each State branch of Athlete's requesting classification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State EA branch will contact the Athlete to arrange a Classification assessment at the next available opportunity. • All classification relevant documentation provided by the Athlete to EA will be made available to the Classification Panel conducting the evaluation.

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Step 5.	The Athlete attends the Classification opportunity and undergoes evaluation by a Classification Panel of two EA accredited Classifiers. At this Evaluation session the Classifiers will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interview the Athlete and explain the evaluation process 2. Conduct the physical assessment of either muscle strength, range of movement of coordination depending on the Athlete's presenting impairment 3. Observe the Athlete riding if possible. If not, this may need to occur at a future event 4. The Classifiers will determine from the assessment results if the Athlete's impairment meets the Minimal Impairment Criteria 5. An interim Grade (I – V or Not Eligible) and Grade Status (New, Review, Confirmed) will be assigned by the Classification Panel 6. Discuss with the Athlete any permitted compensating aids or special equipment allowed
Step 6.	The Athlete's interim classification result is sent to the EA Head Classifier for approval. Once approved the Athlete's details are added to the FEI Classification Master List. Each Athlete must be observed riding (preferably in competition) by EA Classifiers before the Classification is ultimately finalised.

When and where is Classification held?

EA will publish a calendar of Para equestrian activities including Classification opportunities on the EA website.

Athletes requiring Classification can refer to the Para Equestrian Calendar available on the EA website to see when the next Classification day is scheduled in their State. Below are the State contacts for the classification days:

State	Name	Email Contact address
QLD	Sam Duffy	manager@equestrianqld.com.au
NSW	Stefanie @ National Office	stefanie.maraun@equestrian.org.au
VIC	Stefanie @ National Office	stefanie.maraun@equestrian.org.au
TAS	Amy Griffiths	amygriffiths101@hotmail.com
SA	Stefanie @ National Office	stefanie.maraun@equestrian.org.au
WA	Sara Botten	sarabotten@equestrianwa.org.au

What does it cost?

There is no cost for National classification.

What do I need to do to prepare for National classification evaluation?

- Ensure all documentation, as required, has been provided to Equestrian Australia including:
 - Classification Application Form
 - Consent for Classification, signed by the Athlete
 - Certificate of Diagnosis and other supporting medical documentation
- Be flexible when arranging the evaluation appointment time
- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your allocated time
- Attend with an Athlete representative approved by EA. Athletes under the age of 18 years MUST be accompanied by a representative
- Bring your identification documents (e.g. current passport or current driver's license; or birth certificate)

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Athletes are dressed as they would be for riding (no helmet) including boots as applicable. Removing clothing/orthoses such as jackets and shoes/socks is acceptable if the examiner is unable to assess otherwise

- Bring any copies of previous classification documentation
- Bring copies of their medical documentation relevant to the classification.

What is expected of Athletes?

Athletes must cooperate at all times to the best of their ability. Athletes are expected to behave in an honest, courteous and sportsman-like manner. If an Athlete fails to do so, they will not be allowed to compete in the sport. Athletes must declare any previous classifications to the classification panel.

Athletes should be well informed about all elements related to classification procedures, as well as the **Code of Conduct**, outlined in the FEI Para Equestrian Rules.

What is expected of the Athlete representative?

EA approved representatives (e.g. parents, coach) who attend classification with an Athlete are:

- Expected to behave in a courteous manner at all times
- Able to observe and participate when requested, in the evaluation process
- Welcome to ask appropriate questions

What is expected of classifiers?

Classifiers will:

- Treat Athletes in a manner that is professional, courteous and safe at all times
- Provide an Athlete with sufficient information to understand the process, the decision, and the opportunities for clarification or protest
- Ensure all information obtained during classification is kept confidential.

What if an Athlete does not agree with their classification?

In the case where an Athlete disagrees with the classification decision or process followed, they should contact Equestrian Australia to discuss the opportunities available for Protest or Appeal.

When will an Athlete's classification be reviewed?

Every time an Athlete is classified their classification is given a status as below.

- National Review (R) status with no date for review - the Athlete will be required to attend review classification again at the next competition where classification is held.
- National Review (RFD) Fixed Review Date e.g. R January 2017- the Athlete will be required to attend review classification as close as practicable to the month/year that is allocated.
- National Confirmed (C) - the Athlete will not be classified again for any National competitions.

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All Athletes may be classified again if:

- The classification rules for the sport change
- They have a fluctuating or progressive health condition
- Their classification result is borderline between Grades
- The Athlete has a change in their health condition or impairment. For Confirmed (C) Athletes this will need to be substantiated through medical documentation and must be approved by the EA Head Classifier
- As an outcome of Protest or Appeal.

Where do I go for further information?

Further details are available in the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Manual or on the Equestrian Australia website.

Organisation	Website and contact details
Equestrian Australia	http://www.equestrian.org.au +61 8762 7777
Australian Paralympic Committee	www.paralympic.org.au + 61 2 9704 0500 classification@paralympic.org.au