

ATHLETE REGISTRATION AND PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENTS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY



VERSION: NOVEMBER 2021



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NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE NOTES

Introduction

Sport Inclusion Australia is the national sporting organisation established in 1986 to represent the needs of athletes with an intellectual impairment.

Sport Inclusion Australia is responsible for managing the national eligibility process for students wishing to compete within the intellectual impairment classification.

Virtus is the International Federation for sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment, which manages and oversees international classification for intellectual impairment.

Sport Inclusion Australia is the Australian Member organisation of Virtus.

Eligibility and Classification

The eligibility criteria define the minimum impairment necessary to compete as a student with an intellectual disability.

National Eligibility

Eligibility has been introduced to promote the growth of eligibility classification within Australia.

National Eligibility with Sport Inclusion Australia does not guarantee that athletes will meet Virtus International classification and will not permit students to enter Virtus World Championships and International Paralympic Committee, IPC, sanctioned events.

International Eligibility and Classification

There are three (3) levels of Inas International classification for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

- Level 1 Provisional International Eligibility – which permits entry to Inas Developmental Events.
- Level 2 Full Primary Eligibility – which permits entry to Virtus Regional, World Championships and Global Games.
- Level 3 Sport Specific Classification – which is necessary for Paralympic Sports.

Virtus governs the first two levels, but Level three is governed by the International Federation for the specific sport.

For further information about International Classification for intellectual impairment – contact Sport Inclusion Australia or refer to www.virtus.sport/.

Defining Intellectual Disability

The Primary Eligibility Criteria used by Virtus/Sport Inclusion Australia is based upon the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD, 2010) definition of intellectual disability which is consistent with that of the World Health Organisation (WHO, ICD-10 and ICF, 2001), and states:

“Intellectual Disability is a disability characterised by significant limitation both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 22”

The Primary Eligibility Criteria

Based upon the AAIDD definition (above), the Virtus/Sport Inclusion Australia Primary Eligibility Criteria to compete in intellectual impairment sport is:

1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean, that is, a Full Scale score of 75 or lower.
2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This is defined as performance that is at least 2 standard deviations below the mean of, either:
 - a. One of the following 3 types of adaptive behaviour: conceptual, social, or practical skills
 - b. An overall score on a standardised measure of conceptual, social and practical skills.
3. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 22 years of age.

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Students must meet all 3 elements of the criteria to be eligible for consideration as having an intellectual disability.

Completing the Application

Page 1 and 2 should be completed by the student's representative. The form, together with relevant reports should then be sent to Sport Inclusion Australia together with supporting evidence.

Page 3 should be completed by a qualified professional with expertise in the area of intellectual disability.

Page 4 should be completed by Sport Inclusion Australia.

All sections should be completed in full as incomplete applications will be returned causing delays.

Athlete Identification

The application should include a photocopy of photographic identification. (For example a national ID card or student card) clearly showing the student's photo, name and date of birth should be included.

Registration Fee

A registration fee required for registrations to be endorsed and a registration card to be sent.
\$25 - Students

Evidence

Evidence should be submitted which supports a diagnosis of intellectual disability.

Where possible this will be the results of a formal psychological assessment resulting in a diagnosis of intellectual disability test, however if this is not available, then the following will be accepted:

- A signed statement by a psychologist or professional working in the area of intellectual disability which confirms a diagnosis of intellectual disability
- Proof of attendance at a special school/college for students with intellectual disability.
- Diagnosis by state or government receipt of support, clearly identifying the support required as resulting from intellectual disability.

Submitting the Application

Applications should be received by email or by post to:-

Sport Inclusion Australia
15 Latimer Street
BENALLA Victoria 3672
mail@siasport.org

Applicants are recommended to allow a minimum of three weeks for Sport Inclusion Australia to complete the review process.

Storing and using Information

All eligibility applications received by Sport Inclusion Australia are treated with the utmost confidentiality and used for the sole purpose of determining the student's eligibility status to compete in School sport as an athlete with an intellectual disability. On determination of eligibility, the student or school is issued with a registration number and card and only this number is provided to the sport conducting the event.

Further help and assistance

If you have any questions or need help completing the form, then please contact Sport Inclusion Australia on 03 5762 7494 or mail@siasport.org

References

For more information about the definition and assessment of intellectual disability, visit:

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - www.aaidd.org
- Sport Inclusion Australia eligibility policy – www.sportinclusionaustralia.org.au
- Virtus Eligibility Policy – www.virtus.sport/
- Classification Code - www.paralympic.org