



## Classification System for Students with a Disability

### Swimming

Swimming is the only sport that combines the conditions of amputation (limb loss), cerebral palsy (coordination and movement restrictions), Spinal Cord Injury (weakness or paralysis involving any combination of the limbs) and other disabilities (such as Dwarfism (little people); major joint restrictions, across classes.

**Classes 1-10** – are allocated to swimmers with a physical disability

**Classes 11-13** – are allocated to swimmers with a visual disability

**Class 14** – is allocated to swimmers with an intellectual disability

**Class 15** – is allocated to deaf or hearing impaired swimmers

**Class 16** – is allocated to swimmers who have had an organ or bone transplant

The Prefix **S** is for the class allocated for Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly

The Prefix **SB** is for the class allocated for Breaststroke

The Prefix **SM** is for the class allocated for Individual Medley.

The range is from the swimmers with least ability for the stroke (severe disability) (S1, SB1, SM1) to those with the most physical ability (minimal disability) (S10, SB9, SM10).

In any one class some swimmers may start with a dive or in the water depending on their condition. This is factored in when classifying the athlete.

**The examples are only a guide – some conditions not mentioned may also fit the following classes:**

Classification	Definition
<b>S1</b> <b>SB1</b> <b>SM1</b>	Swimmers with very severe coordination problems in four limbs or have no use of their legs, trunk, hands and minimal use of their shoulders only. These swimmers usually only swim on their back.  Swimmers in this class would usually be wheelchair bound and may be dependent on others for their every day needs.
<b>S2</b> <b>SB1</b> <b>SM2</b>	An example is a swimmer able to use their arms with no use of their hands, legs or trunk OR have severe coordination problems in four limbs.  Similar disabilities to Class 1 but these athletes would have more propulsion by use of their arms or legs.
<b>S3</b> <b>SB2</b> <b>SM3</b>	Swimmers with reasonable arm strokes but no use of their legs or trunk; Swimmers with severe coordination problems in all limbs and Swimmers with severe limb loss in four limbs.  Swimmers in this class again have increased ability when compared to those in Class S2.
<b>S4</b> <b>SB3</b> <b>SM4</b>	Swimmers who use their arms and have minimal weakness in their hands but have no use of their trunk or legs; Swimmers with coordination problems affecting all limbs but predominantly in the legs; Swimmers with limb loss to 3 limbs.  Increasing ability compared to Class S3.
<b>S5</b> <b>SB4</b> <b>SM5</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands but no trunk or leg muscles; Swimmers with coordination problems.
<b>S6</b> <b>SB5</b> <b>SM6</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and hands, some trunk control but no useful leg muscles; Swimmers with coordination problems (usually these athletes walk); Swimmers with major limb loss of 2 limbs; Little People/Dwarfs (<130cm females & <137cm males).

<b>S7 SB6 SM7</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; Coordination or weakness problems on the same side of the body; Limb loss of 2 limbs
<b>S8 SB7 SM8</b>	Swimmers with full use of their arms and trunk with some leg function; Swimmers with coordination problems mainly in the lower limbs; Both legs amputated just above or just below the knee; Single above elbow amputation.
<b>S9 SB8 SM9</b>	Swimmers with severe weakness in only leg only; Swimmers with very slight coordination problems; Swimmers with one limb loss. Unless there is an underlying medical condition usually all of these athletes will start out of the water.
<b>S10 SB9 SM10</b>	Swimmers with very minimal weakness affecting the legs; Swimmers with restriction of hip joint movement; Swimmers with both feet deformed; Swimmers with one leg amputated below the knee; Swimmers missing one hand. This is the class with the most physical ability.
<b>S11 SB11 SM11</b>	These swimmers are unable to see at all and are considered totally blind. (See IBSA B1 – appendix) Swimmers must wear blackened goggles if they swim in this class. They will also require someone to tap them when they are approaching a wall.
<b>S12 SB12 SM12</b>	These swimmers can recognise the shape of a hand and have some ability to see. There is a large range of vision ability within this class. (See IBSA B2 – appendix).
<b>S13 SB13 SM13</b>	Swimmers who are the most sighted but are legally considered to be blind. (See IBSA B3 – appendix).
<b>S14 SB14 SM14</b>	Intellectually disabled. There are many different descriptions and conditions of intellectual disability. Intellectually disabled athletes must have substantial limitation in present functioning characterised by intellectual functioning. (The athlete’s intellectual functioning is approximately 70 – 75 or below). Limitations in two or more of the following adaptive skill areas; communication, self-care; home living, social skills, community use, self direction, health and safety, functional academics, leisure and work. They must have acquired their condition before age 18.
<b>S15 SB15 SM15</b>	Deaf/Hearing Impaired. Swimmers who have a recognised hearing impairment according to CISS (International Deaf Sports Body) standards - a) deaf, defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB in the better ear (3 tone frequency average of 500, 1,000 and 2,000 Hertz, ANSI 1969 standard).
<b>S16 SB16 SM16</b>	Transplant. Swimmers who have had an organ or bone transplant.