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# Classification for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment. Eligible Sports: Para Athletics, Para Swimming and Para Table Tennis

## Application Form, Eligibility Criteria & Guidance Notes

Version: June 2022



## INFORMATION FOR ATHLETES AND PARENTES

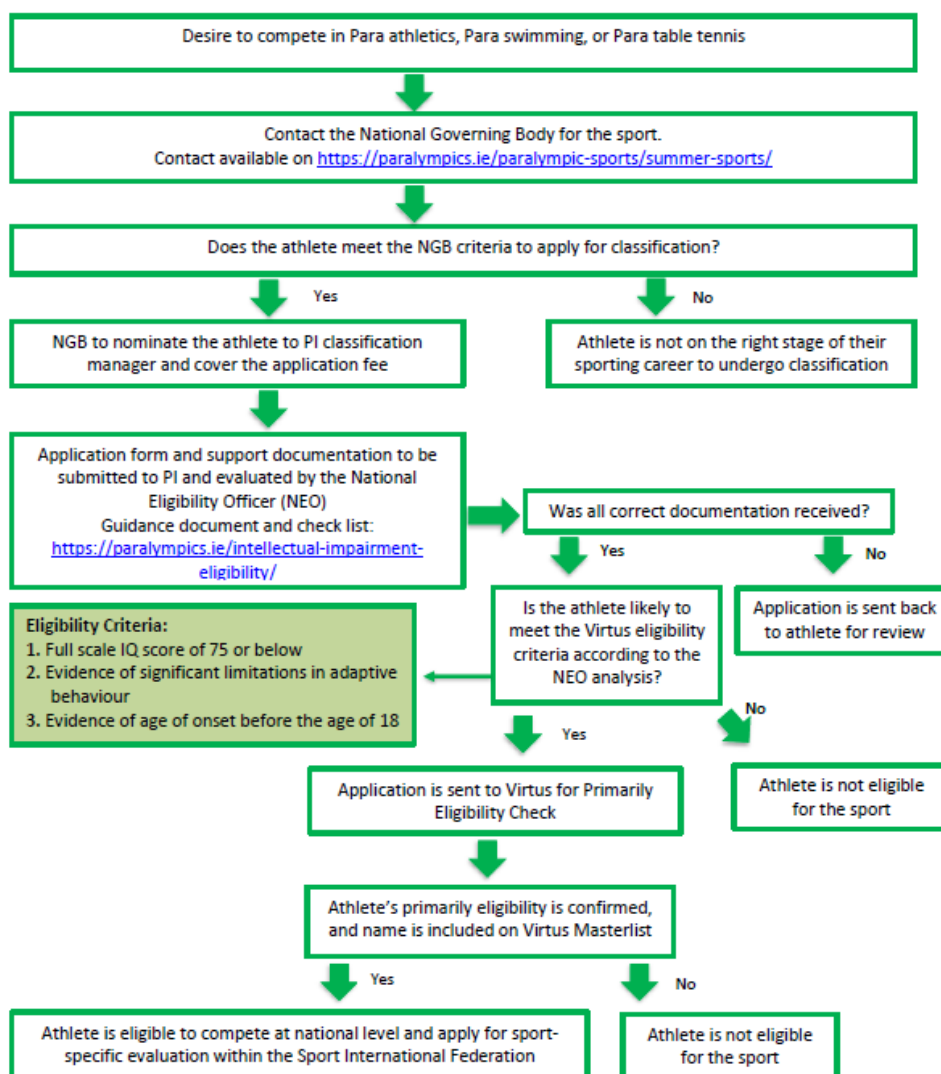
Paralympics Ireland work in conjunction with the NGBs for the sports of Para athletics, Para swimming, and Para Table Tennis, for the selection of athletes with an intellectual disability who are in the right stage of their sporting career to apply for classification to compete in sanctioned events organised by the International Federation of each sport, and to guide athletes/parents through the classification application process.

The classification process includes two separated phases:

1. Eligibility check within Virtus (World Intellectual Impairment Sport)
2. Sport specific evaluation within the International Federation of each Para sport

Athletes receive a valid class to compete at national level once they have gone through phase 1 of the process. In order to compete in sanctioned international events, athletes must go through both phases in advance.

The classification process is described on the flowchart below:





## ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

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. Limitations in adaptive behaviour affect both daily life and the ability to respond to life changes and environmental demands (AAIDD 2010, WHO ICD-10 and ICF-2001).

Based upon this definition, the Virtus Eligibility Criteria for athletes with an intellectual disability is:

1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning which is defined as a Full-Scale IQ score of 75 or lower, and;
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, and;
3. Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 22 years of age

Athletes must meet all 3 elements of the criteria to be eligible for consideration for Para sport. Please see Evidential Requirements for further information.

## COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Page 1 and 2 of the [form](#) should be completed by the athlete/athlete's representative. Page 3 should be completed by Paralympics Ireland National Eligibility Officer and Page 4 by Paralympics Ireland Classification Manager.

All sections should be completed in full as incomplete applications or those that are not completed properly will be returned and will cause delays.

## ATHLETE IDENTIFICATION

The application should include one photo of the athlete and a copy of the athlete's passport. If this is not available then an alternative photographic identification document (for example student card) clearly showing the athlete's photo, name, citizenship, and date of birth should be included.

## SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Only complete applications will be considered.

Documents should be submitted via email to [Ana@paralympics.ie](mailto:Ana@paralympics.ie), or posted to Paralympics Ireland, Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

The application form, reports and all evidence should be scanned into pdf format in the order:

- [Application form](#)
- Psychological reports no more than 5 years old
- Passport/ID copy
- A copy of the athlete's photo will also be needed (jpeg or png format)



- Training history & sport activity limitations inventory (TSAL) to be completed by the athlete's coach by clicking [here](#).
- Paralympics Ireland reserves the right to request further medical/psychological documentation, if additional information is required.

## EVIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

A full and detailed athlete assessment should be undertaken by a qualified psychologist to support the diagnosis of intellectual disability as follows:

1. Significant impairment in intellectual functioning - must be assessed using an internationally recognised and professionally administered IQ test. Please submit the IQ test and report and the summary sheet. Virtus recognises the most recently standardised variations of:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scales - WISC (ages 6-16) and WAIS (ages 16-90) including regional variations such as HAWIE, S-SAIS and MAWIE. (Note: WASI is not accepted)
- Stanford-Binet (for ages 2+)
- Raven Progressive Matrices (Note: CPM is not accepted)

2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour - must be assessed using an internationally recognised and professionally administered standardised measure that has been norm-referenced on the general population including people with disabilities e.g. Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales, ABAS or AAMR Adaptive Behaviour Scales. In the case of both intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour the testing Psychologist must provide a report that must be no more than 5 years old"

Assessment and reporting should be made in the areas of communication, self-care, self-direction, social/interpersonal skills and ability to respond to life changes and environmental demands.

3. Age of Onset before the age of 22 - must be demonstrated by a full and detailed relevant history including education and family background together with previous IQ assessment reports undertaken before the age of 22 or by a signed declaration from a current psychologist stating clearly the evidence on which the diagnosis is based.

In the case of both intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour, the testing psychologist must provide a report that must be no more than 5 years old and:

- Is presented on formal letter-headed paper stating the psychologists name and qualifications, membership number and details of any professional bodies, address, phone/fax number and email
- Is typed (no handwritten reports)
- States when and where the assessment was done (i.e. date, location)
- States the name and version of the IQ test used, the method of assessment of Adaptive Behaviour and why this approach to assessment was chosen.
- Includes general information regarding the athlete's background, relevant history and previous assessments
- Includes a detailed analysis and discussion of IQ and Adaptive Behaviour assessment findings concluding with a clear diagnosis/statement of Intellectual functioning and Adaptive Behaviour.

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- Explains any factors which may have affected the results. Particular attention should be paid to cases where there is a large difference between sub-scale IQ scores that may require the fullscale IQ to be interpreted differently or invalidate it. Reporting should follow the guidelines set out in the IQ test manual and detailed analysis and comment should be included.
- In the case of Adaptive Behaviour assessment, the report should include a summary and interpretation of scores achieved under each domain (Communication, Self-care, Self-direction, Social/interpersonal skills, Ability to respond to life changes and environmental demands)
- Includes a copy of the original summary sheet/record form of IQ and standardised Adaptive Behaviour assessments showing all scores. These will be similar to the illustrations shown here. Where these sheets are not available, the psychologist should explain why within the report.

NOTE: A sample report template can be found in Appendix 1 that may be useful when compiling the necessary reports. This should be shared with the psychologist conducting the assessments. The template is intended as a guide only, and psychologists may prefer to use their own report format - it is important however that all requested information is presented, and the report is tailored to the individual.

For further information, please access <https://www.virtus.sport/applying-for-athlete-eligibility>.

#### STORING AND USING INFORMATION

Paralympics Ireland and Virtus will use the information submitted within the application for the purpose of registering the athlete into the athlete database and determining eligibility to compete as an athlete with an intellectual impairment. It may share information with relevant partners for these purposes.

<https://www.virtus.sport/applying-for-athlete-eligibility>.



**Appendix 1 – Example Report template II1 (Intellectual Disability)**

This template should be used a guide only

Psychologists Name: _____ Address: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Psychologist’s Qualifications: _____ Membership of Professional Bodies/Membership numbers: _____																								
Athletes Full Name: _____ Athletes Date of Birth: _____ Date of Assessment: _____ Age at Assessment: _____																								
<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>Here the psychologist should explain the purpose of the assessment, a description of the assessment tools and methods used (i.e. which IQ and Adaptive Behaviour assessments were used) and why they have been chosen.</p> <p><b>2. Background to the assessment</b></p> <p>Here the psychologist should explain any relevant background to the athlete including education, family background, medical background (if relevant to the assessment) and the results of any previous tests. The aim is to build a general picture of the athlete.</p> <p>The psychologist should also explain the athlete’s attitude towards the assessment, whether they are accompanied by parents/carer etc, and any issues that may affect the outcome of the assessment.</p> <p>We would expect this section to be no shorter than 2 paragraphs.</p> <p><b>3. IQ Assessment</b></p> <p>Here the psychologist should explain the results of the assessment commenting specially on each domain. For example, in the WAIS test this would include a summary of Verbal and Performance sub-tests, including scores achieved. The psychologist should explain in detail any significant variation in sub-test scores and the implications for interpretation of the full IQ score, following the instructions in the test manual.</p> <p><u>Scores</u></p> <p>We would also expect a summary of the scores achieved. E.g. (using WAIS IV). Standard Scores and Percentile Scores must be clearly reported.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;">Standard Score</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Percentile Rank</th> <th style="width: 30%;">95% confidence range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Verbal Comprehension</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Perceptual Reasoning</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working Memory</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Processing Speed</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Scale Score:</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We would expect this section to be no shorter than 5 paragraphs.</p>		Standard Score	Percentile Rank	95% confidence range	Verbal Comprehension				Perceptual Reasoning				Working Memory				Processing Speed				Full Scale Score:			
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Verbal Comprehension																								
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Full Scale Score:																								



## Adaptive Behaviour

Here the psychologist should explain how the Adaptive Behaviour assessment was conducted, who was consulted, and then summarise the results of the assessment commenting specifically on each domain.

If the assessment has been carried out by clinical observation it is important that as much information as possible is provided about the assessment. This should include when, where and for how long the individual was observed, what they were doing and the findings of this observation. This should be supplemented by any available records and interviews with people who know them well such as relatives or carers. The source of such additional evidence should be noted in the report. It usually takes more time to assess an individual by observation than through administering a standardised assessment such as the Vineland.

Communication - Score achieved or findings:

The psychologist should provide an interpretation/summary of results/findings in this area

Daily Living - Score achieved or findings:

The psychologist should provide an interpretation/summary of results/findings in this area

Socialisation - Score achieved or findings:

The psychologist should provide an interpretation/summary of results/findings in this area

Motor Skills - Score achieved or findings:

The psychologist should provide an interpretation/summary of results/findings in this area

Overall Adaptive Behaviour Score/Assessment findings. Score achieved or findings:

Here the psychologist will provide a final diagnosis of adaptive behaviour

## 4. Age of Onset

If the athlete is aged 22 or over at the time of assessment then the psychologist would explain here what evidence is being submitted from before the age of 22, or will provide a statement explaining what evidence they have based their diagnosis on.

## 5. Final Diagnosis

Here the psychologist will summarise the main findings and will provide a clear final diagnosis. They will also explain whether there are any circumstances that may have affected the test results.

## 6. Attachments

The psychologist will then attach the summary sheets from the IQ and Adaptive Behaviour assessments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the psychologist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date