



A guide to eligibility and classification for athletes with an intellectual disability



For para-athletes with an intellectual disability



Inas

Founded in 1986, Inas is recognised as the International Federation for sport for athletes with an intellectual disability. It is a member of the Paralympic family of organisations, and is responsible for the management of the Inas Global Games and for World and Regional Championship competition. It also manages the eligibility process for athlete with an intellectual disability (a component of athlete classification) on behalf of the Paralympic movement.

“Inas is inspired by a belief that an intellectual disability should not be a barrier to enjoying and being the best in sport. Inas’ vision is that athletes with an intellectual disability across the World have the opportunity to achieve excellence in sport and high-level competition”

Inas is a membership organisation, with more than 60 nations in membership across the world. We change attitudes, create opportunities and develop pathways in sport to ensure that athletes with an intellectual disability can progress to elite competition and perform at the highest possible level.

Our membership includes National Paralympic Committees, organisations specifically established to lead sport for athletes with an intellectual disability at a national level, and umbrella organisations that support both disabled and non-disabled athletes.

This pack explains more about the process of athlete eligibility and classification - the process which groups all athletes of similar impairment to ensure competition is fair and equal.

Further resources are available on the Inas website.



Introduction to classification

Classification is an unavoidable part of sport for athletes with a disability.

It provides a structure for competition that ensures that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes.

Just as separate competitions are held for different ages, for male and female athletes, or for different weight groups (for example in judo), so in disability sport groups athletes of similar impairment to ensure that winning is as a result of performance, and not because of an advantage gained through degree of disability.

Some people who take part in sport recreationally will never experience classification, but for those who wish to take part in competition it is an important and compulsory process.

It can be a complicated process but we hope that this guide makes it easier to understand.

As a member of the Paralympic family, Inas is a signatory to the IPC Classification Code which ensures that all organisations and sports adopt a similar approach to classification, and that classification rules and procedures are evidence based.



The difference between eligibility and classification

For athletes with an intellectual disability, 'eligibility' and 'classification' are two parts of the same process.

'Eligibility' ensures the presence of an impairment. For athletes with an intellectual disability, Inas adopts the World Health Organisation (WHO) and American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AAIDD) definition of intellectual disability which is:

1. An IQ of 75 or below,
2. Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour
3. Impairment must have been present before the age of 18.

Athletes applying for eligibility must present evidence from a psychologist after undergoing psychological assessment. This is sent to Inas and will be considered by the Inas Eligibility Committee. Athletes who meet the criteria will appear on the Inas Master List.

Inas manages the eligibility process and application forms and guidance notes can be found on the Inas website. The same process applies to all sports.

Eligibility is mandatory for all Inas competition, IPC competition and many International Federation sanctioned competitions.

'Classification' is a measure of the impact of impairment on sports performance. It ensures that the disability impacts on sports performance and that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus.

It is managed by the International Federations of sport and is sport specific - that is, tests in athletics will be different to tests in swimming or other sports.

Classification is mandatory in all IPC and International Federation sanctioned competition.



Applying for eligibility

Eligibility is managed through Inas' member organisations. Athletes wishing to apply for eligibility should first contact their local organisation - details can be found on the Inas website.

Member organisations will help athletes complete the application form and gather the necessary evidence needed to support the application. When complete, it will submit the application to Inas where it will be considered by the Inas Eligibility Committee.

Responsibilities of member organisations

Inas member organisations are responsible for supporting athletes through the application process.

Member organisations must also appoint a National Eligibility Officer (NEO). This is a psychologist (a different person to the one conducting athlete assessments) who will review every application before it is submitted to Inas.

NEO's should be registered with Inas before an application for eligibility is submitted, using the form at the end of this guide.

Provisional Eligibility

In 2013, Inas launched an alternative eligibility process called provisional eligibility. This was in response to member feedback which showed that the eligibility can be a barrier to the growth of some developing sports within the Inas program.

Primary Eligibility uses the same eligibility criteria but evidential requirements are lower. Full details including application forms and guidance notes are available on the Inas website.

Provisional Eligibility is only accepted for some Inas competitions and some national competitions

National Eligibility Officer registration form

(for member organisation use only)

This form should be used by member organisations to appoint and register their National Eligibility Officer (NEO). Please complete the form fully and attach all necessary supporting documents.

COUNTRY/NATION:

CONTACT DETAILS: Contact name:.....

Position held:.....

Organisation name:.....

Address:.....

Phone number:.....

Email address:.....

Website address:.....

NEO DETAILS: Name:.....

Qualifications:.....

Address:.....

Phone number:.....

Email address:.....

Website address:.....

ATTACHMENTS

All applications must include:

- A copy of the NEO qualifications/membership of any professional bodies

DECLARATION AND SIGNATURES

NEO's must agree to uphold the principles and policies of Inas as set out in the organisations rules and regulations.

Signature of organisation President or Secretary General:.....

Date signed:.....

Name of organisation President or Secretary General:.....

Completed applications should be sent by email to eligibility@inas.org or by post to the Inas registered office. Please remember to include all attachments.