

## Eligible Impairment Types and Medical Diagnostic Requirements

### PARA-ROWING

All athletes seeking classification in Paralympic sports must have an underlying health condition which causes an eligible impairment. In order to be eligible for para rowing, this impairment must be permanent and verifiable. Athletes must submit medical evidence (via a 'Medical Diagnostics Form') to support all of the above.

In summary, athletes must have:

1. An **underlying health condition** which causes an
2. **Eligible impairment** for para rowing.
3. That eligible impairment **must be permanent and verifiable**
4. and all of the above must be supported by **medical documentation**, in the form of a Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF).

On page 2 of the MDF, a list of additional medical tests are provided. Depending on the eligible impairment(s) which the athlete has, these tests should be provided alongside the MDF. An athlete may be required to present further documentation, as indicated in the guidelines below. This list is not exhaustive and athletes may be required to provide further documentation the National Federation, or World Rowing.

Permanent and verifiable impairment type	Examples of underlying health conditions (i.e. diagnosis) causing the impairment	Additional Medical documentation that may be presented in addition to MDF
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b> <i>Athletes have reduced or no ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or generate force</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinal cord injury</li> <li>• Muscular dystrophy</li> <li>• Brachial plexus injury</li> <li>• Erb's palsy</li> <li>• Spina bifida</li> <li>• Sacral agenesis</li> <li>• Guillain-Barre syndrome</li> <li>• Polio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist reports (e.g. reports rehabilitation doctors) detailing condition, date and mechanism of injury, any surgeries or treatment plans, medications, etc.</li> <li>• Manual Muscle Test Results</li> <li>• ASIA scores (for SCI)</li> <li>• EMG</li> <li>• Nerve conduction velocity</li> <li>• Biopsy</li> </ul>
<b>Impaired Range of Movement</b> <i>Athletes have a restriction or lack of passive movement in one or more Joints</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint contractures</li> <li>• Arthrogryposis</li> <li>• Ankyloses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist reports detailing impairment</li> <li>• Goniometric measurements</li> <li>• X-rays of affected limbs or joints</li> </ul>

<b>Limb Deficiency</b> Athletes have total or partial absence of bones or joints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital limb deficiency</li> <li>• Amputation as a result of trauma or illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist reports (e.g. from orthopaedic surgeon) or other relevant specialist detailing surgery/ dysmelia</li> <li>• Photograph of affected limb</li> <li>• X-rays of affected limb/joint</li> </ul>
<b>Hypertonia</b> Athletes have an increase in muscle tension and reduced ability of the muscles to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy</li> <li>• Stroke</li> <li>• Brain injury</li> <li>• Multiple sclerosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neurology reports detailing condition, date and medical history, botox, surgeries, treatment plans, medications, etc</li> <li>• Coordination testing</li> <li>• Modified Ashworth Scores</li> <li>• Brain MRI</li> <li>• EMG</li> </ul>
<b>Athetosis</b> Athletes have continual slow involuntary movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy</li> <li>• Stroke</li> <li>• Brain injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neurology reports detailing condition, date and mechanism of injury, any surgeries or treatment plans, medications etc</li> <li>• Coordination testing</li> <li>• Modified Ashworth Scores</li> <li>• MRI</li> <li>• EMG</li> </ul>
<b>Ataxia</b> Athletes have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral palsy</li> <li>• Stroke</li> <li>• Brain injury</li> <li>• Multiple sclerosis</li> <li>• Spinocerebellar ataxia</li> <li>• Freiderichs ataxia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neurology reports detailing condition, date and mechanism of injury, any surgeries or treatment plans, medications, etc.</li> <li>• Coordination testing</li> <li>• Modified Ashworth Scores</li> <li>• MRI</li> <li>• EMG</li> </ul>
<b>Vision Impairment</b> Athletes have reduced or no vision in both eyes, as a result of damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retinitis pigmentosa</li> <li>• Cone rod dystrophy</li> <li>• Macular degeneration</li> <li>• Congenital cataracts</li> <li>• Myopia</li> <li>• Bilateral anophthalmia</li> </ul> <p>Note that a refractive error (on its own) is not eligible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ophthalmology reports detailing diagnosis, how acquired, surgeries or treatment plans, medications</li> <li>• Visual acuity testing</li> <li>• Visual field testing</li> <li>• ERG</li> <li>• OCT</li> <li>• VEP</li> </ul>

This document is for information only, but does not supersede the World Rowing Rules. For full information on Classification, please refer to the World Rowing Rules (Appendix R15).