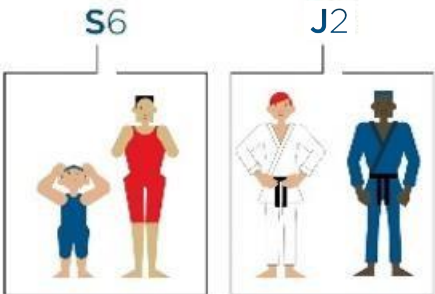

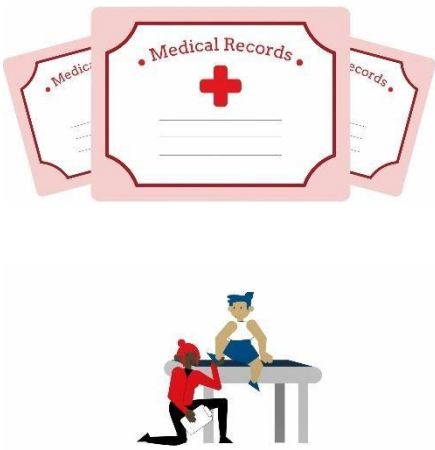



	<p>Classification is important to disability sport</p> <p>Classification is when athletes are tested and grouped together into groups based on their impairment.</p> <p>These groups are called a class</p> <p>Classification shows us who can and can't compete and who we can compete against</p> <p>Not all sports and disabilities are currently able to compete in the Paralympics but people can still enjoy their sport</p>
	<p>Classification is different for each sport</p> <p>Classification lets athletes with impairments compete against each other.</p> <p>Classification makes sure the athlete that trains hardest and performs best on the day wins the competition</p>
	<p>Classification might seem complicated, but so are people</p> <p>No two athletes are the same</p> <p>Athletes may look different to their competitors</p> <p>This is because there can be different types of impairment in the same class</p>

	<p>To get a classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletes must provide medical information</li> <li>• Athletes will take tests in their sport</li> <li>• Athletes may be watched when at competitions</li> </ul>
	<p>During the classification process, athletes must try their hardest</p> <p>Athletes can choose someone to be with them during this process</p>
	<p>To enter a national competition, the athlete must have a national classification from the sport's National Governing Body</p> <p>A National Governing Body is in charge of the sport across the country</p>
	<p>To enter an international competition, the athlete must have an international classification from the sport's International Federation</p> <p>An International Federation is in charge of the sport across the world</p> <p>If you have an international classification this becomes your main classification</p>

	<p>At least two people will work together to make decisions on classification</p> <p>These people are called classifiers</p> <p>They decide which class an athlete competes in</p> <p>They are trained and professional experts</p>
	<p>If someone fakes their level of impairment it is cheating</p> <p>If it's proven, athletes or staff can face a 4 year ban</p> <p>Comparing competition results, personal bests, or season bests is <b><u>not</u></b> evidence that an athlete has been faking their level of impairment</p>
	<p>An athlete may change class for a number of reasons during their career</p> <p>This does <b><u>not</u></b> mean that they were faking their level of impairment before they changed class</p> <p>Depending on the nature of their impairment, an athlete could be classified many times during their career</p>
	<p>An International Federation can put an athlete through the classification process again if it thinks the athlete may have be in the wrong class</p> <p>Athletes may need to go through the classification process again when there are changes made to the sport's classification rules</p>



Classification isn't the key to success in disability sport: different things that impact on performance include talent, training and good coaching.

Athletes have successfully won gold medals despite being considered amongst the most impaired in their class



**For further information please visit our classification page at [Paralympics.org.uk](http://Paralympics.org.uk)**