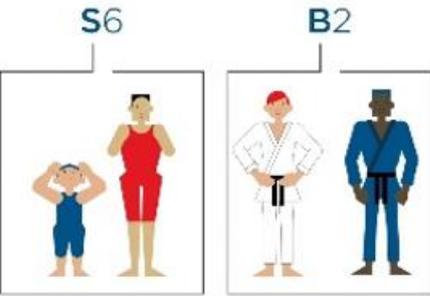


	<p>Classification is important to disability sport</p> <p>Classification is when athletes are tested and grouped together into groups based on their impairment.</p> <p>These groups are called a class</p> <p>Classification shows us who can and can't compete and who we can compete against</p> <p>Not all 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>



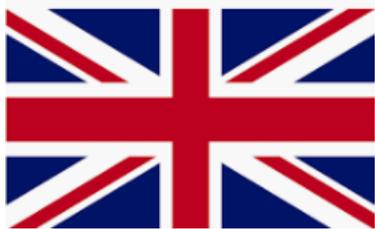
To get a classification:

- Athletes must provide medical information
- Athletes will take tests in their sport
- Athletes may be watched when at competitions



During the classification process, athletes must try their hardest

Athletes can choose someone to be with them during this process



To enter a national competition, the athlete must have a national classification from the sport's National Governing Body

A National Governing Body is in charge of the sport across the country



To enter an international competition, the athlete must have an international classification from the sport's International Federation

An International Federation is in charge of the sport across the world

If you have an international classification this becomes your main classification



At least two people will work together to make decisions on classification

These people are called classifiers

They decide which class an athlete competes in

They are trained and professional experts



If someone fakes their level of impairment it is cheating

If it's proven, athletes or staff can face a 4 year ban

Comparing competition results, personal bests, or season bests is **not** evidence that an athlete has been faking their level of impairment



An athlete may change class for a number of reasons during their career

This does **not** mean that they were faking their level of impairment before they changed class

Depending on the nature of their impairment, an athlete could be classified many times during their career



An International Federation can put an athlete through the classification process again if it thinks the athlete may have been in the wrong class

Athletes may need to go through the classification process again when there are changes made to the sport's classification rules



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