



# World ParaDarts Eligibility Criteria

Adopted February 2020

The WP follows the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) system of Classification and the guidelines of their classification system.

(Please see notes at the bottom about ongoing work on the eligibility criteria)

## What is classification?

Classification provides a structure for competition. Athletes competing in para-sports have an impairment that leads to a competitive disadvantage. Consequently, a system has to be put in place to minimise the impact of impairments on sport performance and to ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This system is called classification. Classification determines who is eligible to compete in a para-sport and it groups the eligible athletes in sport classes according to their activity limitation in a certain sport.

In the first instance the underlying disability has to be a permanent condition and must be an eligible disability according to the IPC. The second consideration is how the disability effects a player and does it affect them sufficiently to impact the way they play darts.

The WP eligible disabilities consist of the following 8 Physical Impairments:

### 1. IMPAIRED MUSCLE POWER

Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio

Includes spinal cord damage as result of injury or a congenital condition. Other examples are transverse myelitis, sacral agenesis, spinal tumours, nerve damage, Erbs Palsy, Muscular dystrophies or other conditions that causes loss of muscle strength or paralysis in the trunk and legs (paraplegia) or legs, trunk and arms (quadriplegia).



## **2. IMPAIRED PASSIVE RANGE OF MOVEMENT**

Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogyrosis, Talipes Equinovarus. However, Hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.

### **Minimal Disability**

As a guide the full fusion of one ankle or wrist is the minimum

## **3. LIMB DEFICIENCY**

Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).

### **Minimal Disability**

Generally, the amputation must be at least through the ankle or wrist but will be assessed on an individual basis.

## **4. LEG LENGTH DIFFERENCE**

Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma. Eg Dysmelia

### **Minimal Disability**

As a guide a length difference of 7cm is considered

## **5. SHORT STATURE**

Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.

### **Minimal Disability**

The height for athletes with short stature is a maximum of 145cm

## **6. HYPERTONIA**

Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, due to injury, illness or a health condition or a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.



**7. ATAXIA**

Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

**8. ATHETOSIS**

Generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

Important note: The WP is constantly reviewing the classification process and in conjunction with the IPC is looking at the specific impact disabilities have in the Sport of Darts. This means that the eligibility criteria and classification process will change over time