

Para-Climbing Information Sheet

About the Sport

Para-Climbing makes its debut at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

In Para-climbing, there are three climbing formats: lead, speed, and boulder. Lead is the dominant format represented at international competitions.

In competitions, ranking is based on the furthest height an athlete reaches while climbing. Competitors try unknown routes until they fall. If heights of two athletes are the same, previous round results or time of the climb is used to rank the athletes.

Competitors may use a variety of equipment to assist them to climb including prosthetics and specialised harnesses. Competitors with a vision impairment use a sighted guide to assist with their navigation on the climbing wall.

Who can compete?

Para-Climbing is open to athletes with a physical or vision impairment. Athletes are required to submit medical reports and meet the minimum impairment criteria in order to compete.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Loss of limbs	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.	Arm: loss of tips of fingers OR shortened arm of similar length Leg: complete loss of one foot or shortened leg of similar length.
Muscle weakness/Impaired muscle power	Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or other spinal condition.	Loss of strength in at least one hip, knee, ankle, trunk, shoulder, elbow, wrist or hand.
Co-ordination impairments - Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis	Impairments from neurological conditions such as acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis that affect co-ordination and smoothness of movement and balance.	Co-ordination or movement difficulties in at least one arm or leg

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Restricted joint movement/ Impaired passive range	Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.	Joint movement restrictions in at least one hip, knee, ankle, trunk shoulder, knee, ankle or neck.
Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length due to a deficiency at birth or trauma.	Loss of length must be significant, usually around 7cm or more.
Short stature	Reduced standing height and limb length from conditions such as achondroplasia or other conditions that affect growth.	Standing height for males and females must be less than or equal to 140cm.
Vision Impairment	Impairment of the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or vision area of the brain, resulting in a loss of vision in both eyes. Caused by conditions such as albinism, macular degeneration, macular or cone rod dystrophy and retinitis pigmentosa.	Visual acuity loss in both eyes (how far they can see) with best corrected vision. Vision is less than or equal to 6/60 (log MAR 1.00); or Visual field restriction in both eyes (how wide they can see) of less than 40 degrees diameter with best corrected vision.

Para-Climbing Sport Classes

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
Athletes with a Vision Impairment	
B1	Athletes who are blind. A sighted guide is used by the athlete to help them select their climbing route.
B2	Athletes who have very low vision in both eyes either in how far they can see (visual acuity <2/60; LogMAR 1.5-2.6 inclusive) or how wide they can see (visual field <10 degrees diameter). A sighted guide is used by the athlete to help them select their climbing route.
B3	Athletes who have low vision in both eyes, but more vision than PTVI3 swimmers. Vision is affected either in how far they can see (visual

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
B3 (continued)	acuity <6/60; LogMAR 1-1.4 inclusive) or how wide they can see (visual field < 40 degrees diameter). A sighted guide is used by the athlete to help them select their climbing route.
Athletes with a Physical Impairment	
AU2	Athletes have muscle weakness or limb deficiency/loss in one or both arms, that affects their wrist, elbow or shoulder.
AU3	Athletes have muscle weakness or limb deficiency/loss in one or both hands.
AL1	Athletes have muscle weakness or limb deficiency/loss in both legs.
AL2	Athletes have muscle weakness or limb deficiency/loss in one leg.
RP1	Athletes with significant co-ordination impairments or significant loss of power and/or joint movement in their arms, spine and/or legs.
RP2	Athletes with moderate co-ordination impairments or moderate loss of power and/or joint movements in their arms, spine and/or legs
RP3	Athletes with short stature, mild co-ordination impairments or minimal loss of power or joint movement.
Not Eligible (NE)	Athlete does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para-sport classes, but may still be able to compete. Contact Sport Climbing Australia for more information.

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

Sport Climbing Australia

W: <https://www.sportclimbingaustralia.org.au/>

E: info@sportclimbingaustralia.org.au

Note: The classification information provided is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in accordance with the rules of the sport. Not all classes have events at the Paralympic Games.