

# SWIMMING CLASSIFICATION FACTSHEET



## Swimming Classification

Everyone is able to take part in swimming. Swimming Australia Ltd (SAL) is committed to a swimming for all philosophy and encourages people of all abilities to join a swimming club and take part in the many opportunities available. Classification is not a requirement for participation in swimming and SAL encourages all swimmers to participate and compete in mainstream opportunities where appropriate.

Classification is used to place athletes of similar ability or function into groups for the purpose of competition. Classification exists in other areas of sport such as weight classes in boxing and handicaps in golf. Classification in sport for people with disability considers an athlete's medical condition, physical attributes and functional ability to group them into classes. Classification is designed to ensure a fair environment for elite competition but the system is used in Australia to ensure meaningful competition at all levels.

There are 16 classes in the swimming classification system that caters for a range of disabilities. These classes are outlined below;

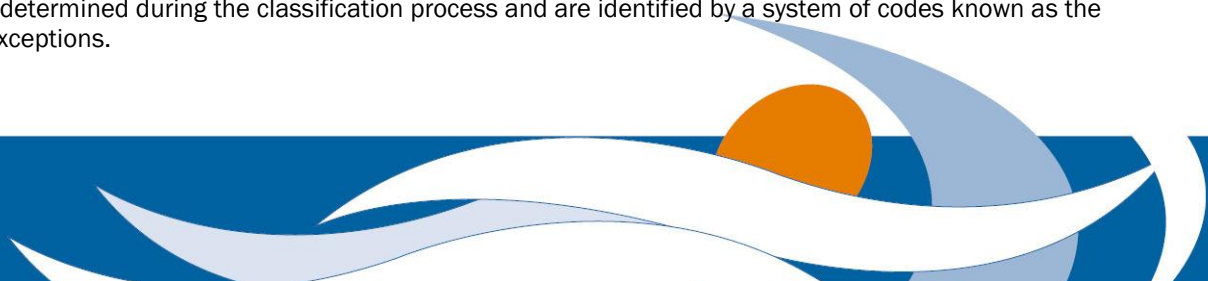
Classes	Disability
	<b>Swimmers with a physical or functional disability</b>
1-10	Swimmers are assessed through physical testing and water observations. Muscle strength, movement co-ordination, joint range of movement and limb/trunk length contribute to the allocation of classes. Classes range from swimmers with most significant physical impairment (Class 1) to those with minimal impairment (class 10).
	<b>Swimmers with a vision impairment</b>
11-13	Ranges from class 11 for swimmers who are blind to class 13 for swimmers who are legally blind (i.e. acuity less than or equal to 6/60 or visual field less than 20 degrees).
	<b>Swimmers with an intellectual disability</b>
14	Swimmers with an IQ score of 75 or less; with significant limitations in adaptive behavior expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; acquired prior to 18 years of age.
	<b>Swimmers with a hearing impairment</b>
15	Swimmers who have a recognized hearing impairment according to the following ICSD standards; deaf, defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB in the better ear 3FAHL
	<b>Swimmers who have received a transplant</b>
16	Any person having undergone invasive treatment of a non-cosmetic nature requiring organs and/or tissues (excluding blood) donated by another person.

Swimmers receive a class for each stroke discipline, and a prefix indicates which stroke the class applies to;

Prefix	Stroke
S	Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly
SB	Breaststroke
SM	Individual Medley

## Exceptions to the swimming rules

Some swimmers are entitled to receive exceptions to the swimming rules and other considerations based on their classification. The exceptions prevent classified swimmers from being disqualified during Multi-Class (MC) competition. These exceptions are determined during the classification process and are identified by a system of codes known as the Swimming Codes of Exceptions.



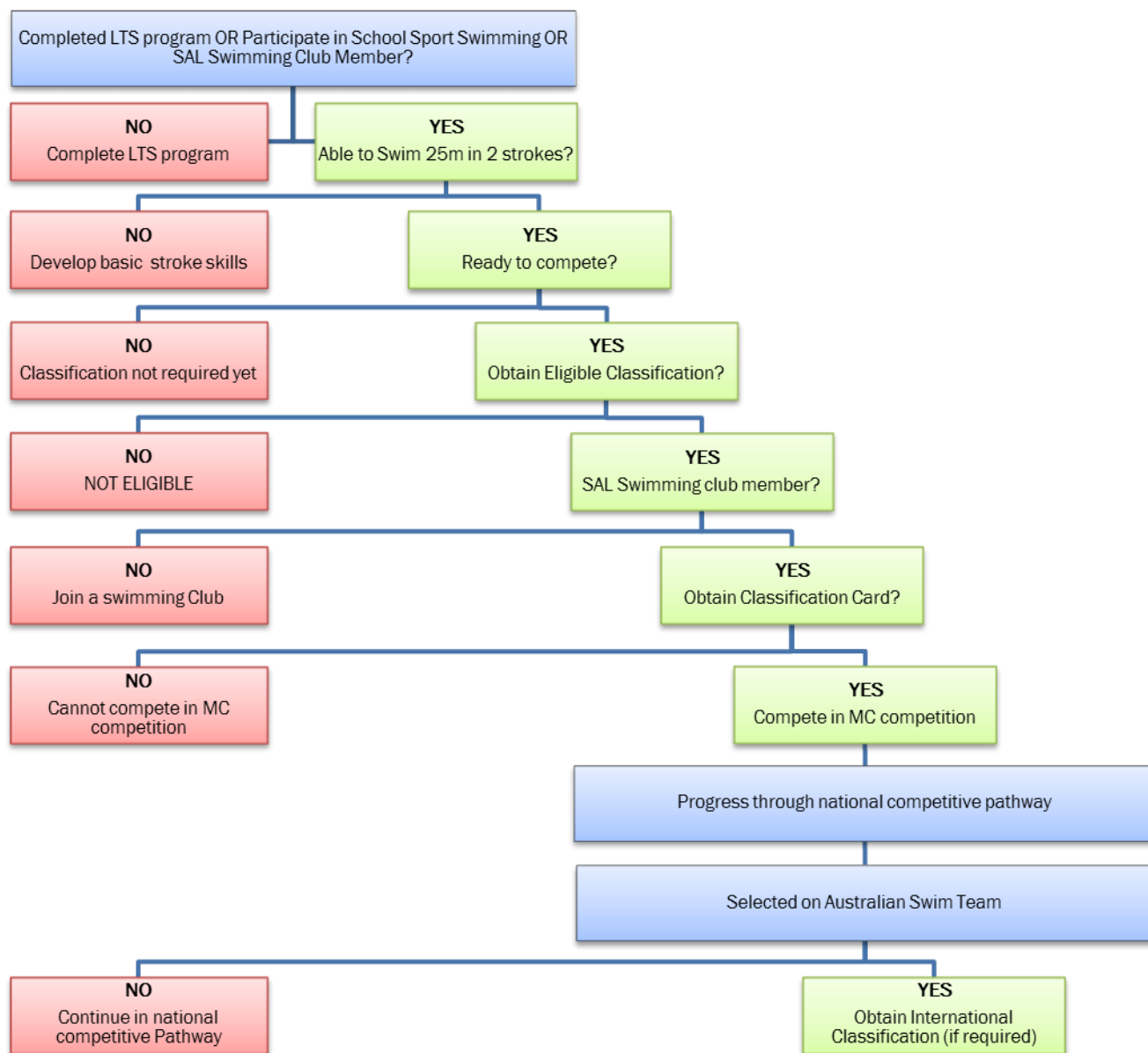
## Classification Card

Once a swimmer receives an eligible classification and they are a current SAL club member they are entitled to apply for a SAL Classification Card (formerly known as the SWD ID Card). The Classification Card identifies that a swimmer has an eligible classification and outlines any exceptions to the swimming rules. Card holders are able to compete in Multi-Class (MC) events and are eligible for state and national records. Card holders must present the card to the meet referee prior to competition. Depending on the classification additional documents may need to be submitted with your application. To apply for a SAL Classification Card visit [www.swimming.org.au](http://www.swimming.org.au).

Not a club member? Visit [www.goswim.org.au](http://www.goswim.org.au) to find your nearest club and GO SWIM today!



## Classification Pathway



\* SAL – Swimming Australia, MC – Multi-Class, LTS – Learn to swim