



2018 Para-sport Talent Search Fact Sheet

What is the Australian Paralympic Committee Para-sport Talent Search Program?

The Para-sport Talent Search is an initiative of the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC). Its main goal is to identify or transition people with physical, vision or intellectual impairments who display the athletic potential to one day make it to Paralympic level competition. A secondary goal is to support the introduction of people with a disability to sport programs which enable them to participate at the level and desire their ability enables them to.

Who is eligible to participate?

The Para-sport Talent Search is only open to people with one of the ten impairment types currently eligible for Paralympic sport who believe they have the potential to compete at a future Paralympic Games, or for those already participating within the Para sport system, are looking to transfer to an alternative sport. Impairment types eligible for Paralympic sport include;

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.

Impaired passive range of movement: Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogryposis. Hypermobility of



joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.

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).

Leg length difference: Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.

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.

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

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

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.

Visual impairment: Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex.

Intellectual Impairment: A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills, which originates before the age of 18



Worth noting is that not all impairment types are eligible to participate in all Para sports.

All age groups are welcome to register for the program, however it is difficult to provide specific pathway advice or any meaningful support to participants under 10 years of age.

What sports can I do?

On the day we will conduct general baseline sport tests and activities, mainly to observe movement patterns and to gain an understanding of which sports may be best suited to individual participants. We may also conduct some additional sport specific tests, measurements or questionnaires applicable for multiple Paralympic sports.

Which sports are on the Paralympic Games Program?

Whilst Australia do not currently compete in every Paralympic Sport, the sports confirmed on the summer Paralympic Games Program at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games include;

- Para-archery
- Para-badminton*
- Para-canoe
- Para-equestrian
- Goalball
- Para-powerlifting
- Para-shooting
- Para-table tennis
- Para-athletics
- Boccia
- Para-cycling
- Football 5-a-side
- Judo
- Para-rowing
- Para-swimming
- Para-taekwondo*



- Para-triathlon
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Volleyball (sitting)
- Wheelchair Fencing
- Wheelchair Rugby

* New Paralympic sports for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

Sports confirmed for the Winter Paralympic Program for Beijing 2022 include;

- Para-alpine skiing
- Para-snowboard
- Wheelchair curling
- Para-biathlon
- Para-ice hockey

Participants are encouraged to take part in all activities. Some sport specific testing may be dependent on availability of coaches and required facilities. Therefore, we are unable to guarantee that sport specific testing in all Paralympic sports will be available at each event, however we will be able to connect individuals directly with sports if requested or deemed appropriate to do so.

The APC and our sporting partners will review results from the Para Sport Talent Search testing to provide information and suggested follow up for the participant.

If there is follow up with me after the day, does this mean I'll make the next Paralympic team?

No. This is one of the first steps in the process of identifying people with classifiable impairments who display the potential to make a future Australian Paralympic team. In many sports and classifications, it will take years of training



and preparation to reach the standards required to compete at Paralympic level.

Teams are selected for international competitions, including Paralympic Games according to pre-determined selection criteria. When available, these can be viewed from the APC website or the relevant National Sporting Organisation website.

If I'm identified as having 'Paralympic potential', will the APC provide me with any type of support?

Selective new and talent transfer athletes may receive targeted support at the discretion of the APC until they are fully integrated in a high-performance pathway for the targeted sport or for an agreed period.

Both financial and logistical support for talented individuals may be provided through;

- Access to coaching support
- Training and competition support
- Classification preparation and access support
- Equipment provision support
- Performance monitoring
- Transition requirements for talent transfer athletes

The level of support provided will be determined solely by the APC at its discretion and will be based on the potential of the athlete to contribute towards future Paralympic Performance outcomes.



What happens if I'm not 'selected' for follow up?

The reality of competitive sport, including Para sport, is that not everyone is destined to make it to the elite level. Some people may not possess the physical attributes, the competitive spirit or the desire to reach an international level, or simply not be competitive from a Classification perspective within a given sport. Some people may love sport and want to continue their involvement at a recreational level. If this is the case, there are many organisations and sporting groups that can assist with your sporting goals and your attendance may present new opportunities for you to pursue.

I already compete in Para sport events. Should I attend a Para Sport Talent Search?

The fact that you are already participating or competing and are "in the system" is a good start. The direction and feedback that you receive following a Para Sport Talent Search day may not differ greatly from what you are currently doing.

You are more than welcome to attend and participate in the testing as it may provide an opportunity for interaction and feedback from coaches or sports who you have not worked with or been connected to in the past. There may also be Sports which you did not know you were eligible to participate in. Please keep your expectations of what happens following the day in line with what has been outlined in this fact sheet.



What are the dates and venues for the 2018 Para-sport Talent Search program?

DATE	LOCATION
Sunday 12th August	Sydney Olympic Park Hall of Legends, Olympic Blvd
Saturday 18th August	Gold Coast Sport & Leisure Centre Nerang-Broadbeach Rd, Carrara
Sunday 19th August	Brisbane Girls Grammar School Sports Centre Gregory Terrace, Brisbane
Sunday 9th September	Herb Graham Recreation Centre 38 Ashbury Crescent, Mirrabooka
Sunday 23rd September	Palmerston Recreation Centre 11 The Blvd, Palmerston
Sunday 7th October	Moonah Sports Centre 17 Gormanston Rd, Moonah
Sunday 21st October	APC/Essendon Football Club Training Centre 275 Melrose Drive, Melbourne Airport
Sunday 18th November	AIS Sport Halls Leverrier St, Bruce
Sunday 9th December	St Peters College Sports Centre 57 Hackney Road, Hackney

What do I need to do before the Para sport Talent Search day?

Participants are required to complete a registration form prior to attending the day. Registration is available at the following link.

www.paralympic.org.au/talent-search-registration-form/

Directions and final information will be provided to all registered participants one week prior to the day.



What do I need to bring?

Participants will need to wear clothing that is suitable for physical activity participation. Suggested items to bring are:

- Shorts or tracksuit pants and a t-shirt
- Running/jogging shoes
- Wheelchair sports chair (if you have one but this is not essential)
- Swimmers and towel
- Lunch (if session is conducted over lunch period) and adequate water

For further information please contact the APC on:

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