

U.S. Paralympics Swimming Open Championships

2011 Can-Am Open

December 8-10, 2011
Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center
La Mirada, CA, USA

Classification...

What is Classification?

Classification is a structure for competition. Paralympic athletes have an impairment in body structures and functions that leads to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently, criteria are put in place to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for athletes who are able-bodied.

What are the Sport Classes for Swimming?

Classes 1-10: are allocated to swimmers with a physical impairment
Classes 11-13: are allocated to swimmers with a visual impairment
Class 14: is allocated to swimmers with an intellectual impairment

The Prefix S denotes the sport class for Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly
The Prefix SB denotes the sport class for Breaststroke
The Prefix SM denotes the sport class for Individual Medley

Who must be Classified?

The international classification database for swimming is listed on the IPC website at www.paralympic.org. The national U.S. Paralympics classification database for swimming is available at www.usparalympics.org.

If the swimmer has never been internationally classified (i.e. is NOT listed in the international database) or has an international R-Review sport class status, a classification appointment must be requested at this competition. Submit the enclosed *Request for Classification* form. Athletes will be notified by email about the classification appointment schedule. All classification appointments will be scheduled on Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7, 2011. **There is a \$100 fine payable to Paralympic Division/USOC for missed appointments.**

The classification process consists of a bench / water test that will be conducted during your classification appointment on Tuesday, December 6 or Wednesday, December 7, 2011, and observation during competition. *All athletes being classified must be entered into and compete in the competition.*

Swimmers who have an intellectual disability:

Classification is a two part process for the athlete with an intellectual impairment. Part 1 is to complete an INAS-FID eligibility assessment. The INAS-FID member organization in the USA is Athletes Without Limits. For more information on the process and to access the application materials, please go to <http://www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/usa/eligibility/>.

Part 2 will be a sport-specific classification evaluation. The evaluation criteria have not yet been published by the IPC (as of October 1, 2010). Once available from IPC Swimming this information will be disseminated and available at www.usparalympics.org.

Submitting Your Request for Classification

Requests for classification must be received by October 15, 2011. Submit the enclosed *Request for Classification* form and any pertinent medical documentation to:

Paralympic Division / USOC
Attn: 2011 Can Am Open / Classification Requests
E-mail: erin.popovich@usoc.org
Or by fax: +1 719 866 2029

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Request for Classification Appointment Form

Please type or print clearly. All correspondence about classification will be conducted via e-mail.

Name _____ Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sport(s) for which classification is being requested: _____

Current **NATIONAL** or **INTERNATIONAL** sport class(es): (please leave BLANK if not yet classified)

SWIMMING CLASS(ES): S _____ SB _____ SM _____ STATUS (circle): N R

Describe your disability and related medical conditions (attach additional pages/medical documentation if necessary):

Preferred appointment time (rank in order of preference, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.):

____ Tuesday 6 December 9:00-11:00	____ Wednesday 7 December 9:00-11:00
____ Tuesday 6 December 11:00-13:00	____ Wednesday 7 December 11:00-13:00
____ Tuesday 6 December 13:00-15:00	____ Wednesday 7 December 13:00-15:00
____ Tuesday 6 December 15:00-17:00	____ Wednesday 7 December 15:00-17:00

Requests for classification must be received by **OCTOBER 15, 2011**. Submit the *Request for Classification* form and any medical documentation to:

Paralympic Division / USOC
Attn: 2011 Spring Can Am / Classification Requests
E-mail: erin.popovich@usoc.org
Or by fax: +1 719 866 2029