

***U.S. Paralympics Swimming***  
***2012 Jimi Flowers Classic***  
February 23-26, 2012  
Hosted by U.S. Paralympics  
United States Olympic Training Center  
Colorado Springs, CO, USA

## Classification...

### **What is Classification?**

Classification is the structure for competition. Paralympic athletes have an impairment in body structures and/or body 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

### **Swimmers who have a physical or visual impairment:**

The international classification database for swimming is listed on the IPC website at [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org). The national U.S. Paralympics classification database for swimming is available at [www.usparalympics.org](http://www.usparalympics.org).

If the swimmer has never been INTERNATIONALLY classified (i.e. is **NOT** listed in the IPC database or is listed in the IPC database with sport class status N-New) or has an INTERNATIONAL sport class status of R-Review, 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 Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24, 2012.

*\*\*For US athletes, more information, can be found on the U.S. Paralympics website  
<http://usparalympics.org/sports/summer-paralympic-sports/swimming/events>\*\**

*Athletes outside the U.S. must request classification appointments through their NPC.\*\**

The classification process consists of a physical and technical assessment that will be conducted during the classification evaluation appointment on Thursday or Friday, February 23-24, 2012, and observation during competition. ***All athletes being classified must be entered into and compete in at least one S and one SB event of the competition.***