

Para-Snowboard Information Sheet

About the Sport

Para-snowboard made its first appearance at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games. It features three disciplines; banked slalom, giant slalom and snowboard-cross.

In banked slalom, each athlete completes three runs down the course with their best run determining the final order. The course is a medium pitch with plenty of bumps, dips, and a U-shape built in. In giant slalom, each athlete competes two runs down the course with the combined time determining the final order for the last run. The terrain includes a medium pitched slope, and various grades. In snowboard-cross, there are both head to head and time trial events. The course includes gap jumps, spines, double spines, banks and giant slalom turns.

Who can compete?

Para-Snowboard is open to athletes with a physical 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 one arm above the wrist OR short arm of similar length Leg: loss of one leg above the ankle 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 the shoulder, elbow, hip, knee or ankle. |
| 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 |
| 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 restriction in the shoulder, elbow, hip, knee or ankle. |

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| Leg length difference | Significant difference in leg length due to a deficiency at birth or trauma. | The difference must be at least 7cm between both legs |
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Para-Snowboard Sport Classes

(SB=Snowboard; LL=Lower limb; UL=Upper limb)

| Class | Examples (Guide Only) |
|-------------------|--|
| SB-LL1 | Boarders have a significant impairment in one or both legs. This will affect their ability to balance, control the board between the toe and heel edge and absorb the unevenness of the terrain. Athletes with may use prostheses or modified equipment during races if required. |
| SB-LL2 | Boarders with an impairment in one or both legs that is less severe than SB-LL1, such as a single below-knee amputation. Athletes may use prostheses or modified equipment if required. Boarders can control the force and speed of the board well, but may have reduced precision on the turns. |
| SB-UL | Boarders with an impairment in one or both arms, such as nerve damage or an impairment in co-ordination. Boarders impairments may impact on their ability to balance and use their arms for power on their race turns. |
| Not Eligible (NE) | Athlete does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para-sport classes, but may still be able to compete. Contact Snow Australia for more information. |

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

Snow Australia

W: www.snow.org.au

E: info@snow.org.au

P: 03 9696 2344

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 may have events at the Paralympic Games.