

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible in the sport of British Para-Swimming:

- Athletes must be affected by at least one of the Impairments listed in the first column of the table below; and
- The Impairment must result directly from a health condition (e.g. trauma, disease, dysgenesis), and must be documented by medical records.
- The impairment must be permanent
- The impairment must be stable

Eligible Impairment types. In order to compete in British Para- Swimming an Athlete must be affected by at least one of the 10 Impairment types listed in the first column of this table.

Impairment Type	Examples of health conditions likely to cause such Impairments	Description of Impairment
Hypertonia	Cerebral palsy, stroke, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis	High muscle tone <i>Inclusions:</i> Hypertonia / High muscle tone <i>Exclusions:</i> Hypotonia / Low muscle tone
Ataxia	Ataxia resulting from cerebral palsy, brain injury, Friedreich's ataxia, multiple sclerosis, spinocerebellar ataxia	Control of voluntary movement <i>Inclusions:</i> Ataxia only <i>Exclusions:</i> Problems with control where there is no identified structural or genetic cause
Athetosis	Cerebral palsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury	Involuntary contractions of muscles <i>Inclusions:</i> Athetosis, chorea <i>Exclusions:</i> Sleep related movement

Limb deficiency	Amputation resulting from trauma or congenital limb deficiency (dysmelia).	Total or partial absence of the bones or joints of the shoulder region, upper extremities, pelvic region or lower extremities.
Impaired Passive Range of Movement (PROM)	Arthrogyrosis, ankylosis, post burns joint contractures	Impaired joint mobility Exclusions: Hypermobility of joints.
Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, Erb's palsy, polio, spina bifida, Guillain-Barré syndrome	Muscle power arising from permanent primary muscle disease or nerve supply to muscles
Leg Length Difference	Congenital or traumatic causes of bone shortening in one leg	Aberrant dimensions of bones of right lower limb OR left lower limb but not both. Inclusions: shortening of bones of one lower limb Exclusions: shortening of bones of both lower limbs; any increase in dimensions
Short stature	Achondroplasia, growth dysfunction	Aberrant dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk which will reduce standing height
Visual Impairment	Vision impairment arises from a variety of conditions - genetic, prenatal developmental issues or from illness or trauma Diagnoses that cause low vision in the range: a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 20 degrees radius	Impairment of the eye structure; Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways; Impairment of the visual cortex.
Intellectual Impairment		IQ of 75 or below Limitations in adaptive behaviour, Age of onset before the age of 18 years.

Non-Eligible Impairments

The following Impairments are not eligible to be classified for British Para-Swimming – Physical Impairment.

- Any exclusion listed in the above Table
- Hearing impairments
- Pain
- Joint stability such as unstable shoulder joint, dislocation of a joint;
- Muscle endurance impairments
- Motor reflex impairments
- Involuntary movement reaction impairments
- Tics/involuntary movements, mannerisms etc.
- Cardiovascular impairments
- Respiratory impairments
- Impaired muscle power resulting from disuse (e.g. pain, conversion disorder);
- Hypotonia (e.g. associated with Down syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome);
- (Developmental) Dyspraxia /Developmental Coordination Disorder.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Attention Deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Scoliosis
- Organ Transplants

It must be noted that even swimmers who have a diagnosis that meets the eligibility criteria for classification may still not be sufficiently impaired to gain a class.