



This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Para Karate. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the classification rules of the sport, which are determined by the World Karate Federation.

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the World Karate Federation Para Karate Classification Rules to determine the following:

1. Does the athlete have an eligible impairment type? An athlete must have a permanent eligible impairment type and provide medical documentation detailing their diagnosis and current health condition.
2. Does the athlete meet the minimum impairment criteria for the sport? Specific criteria are applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. These are called the minimum impairment criteria.
3. What is the appropriate class in which to allocate the athlete for competition? Classes are detailed in the classification rules for the sport, and a classifier determines the Sport Class an athlete will compete in, as well as the Compensation Score in the form of Extra Points, according to the degree of Impairment.

Which Impairment groups compete in Para Karate?

Impairment		Examples of health conditions
Intellectual Impairment		Must have a diagnosis of Intellectual Impairment by a psychologist, neurologist or psychiatrist.
Visual Impairment		Impairment of the eye structure, optic nerve / pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain: Includes albinism, retinitis pigmentosa, macular or rod cone dystrophy.
Physical Impairment	Hypertonia	Cerebral palsy, stroke, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis.
	Ataxia	Ataxia resulting from cerebral palsy, brain injury, Friedreich's ataxia, multiple sclerosis, spinocerebellar ataxia.
	Athetosis	Cerebral palsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury.
	Limb Deficiency	Amputation resulting from trauma or congenital limb deficiency.
	Leg Length Difference	Disturbance of limb growth or as a result of trauma. Leg length difference must be at least 7cm.
	Impaired Passive Range of Motion	Arthrogryposis, ankylosis, post-burn joint contractures.
	Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury.

What are the Minimal Eligible Impairment Criteria?

Specific criteria are applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. These are called the minimal impairment criteria. For more information, please refer to the Para Karate Classification Rules on the World Karate Federation website.

Impairment		Minimal Disability – GUIDE ONLY
Intellectual Impairment		IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, having originated before the age of 18. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. Athletes with Down Syndrome.
Vision Impairment		Visual acuity less than or equal to 6/18.
Physical Impairment	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	The athlete must have evidence of at least hypertonia grade 1-2 in the ankle or elbow, ataxia, athetosis or dystonic movements.
	Limb Deficiency	Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example, traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).
	Leg Length Difference	Leg length difference must be at least 7cm.
	Impaired Passive Range of Motion	Arthrogryposis and/or contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint's mobility or function.
	Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, spina bifida.

What are the NON – PARALYMPIC CLASSES for this sport?

The list below is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in a particular sport.

Classes	Examples (Guide Only)
Blind/visually impaired – BLINDFOLDS ARE REQUIRED (NOTE: Athletes will be classified according to the LESS-IMPAIRED eye.)	
K10	Athletes who have no sight in both eyes: – Blindness: No light perception
	Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes: – Visual acuity ranges from 3/60 to light perception in the less-impaired eye
	Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes: – Visual acuity ranges from 6/18 to 3/60 in the less-impaired eye



Intellectually impaired	
K21	Athletes must have an IQ of 75 or lower on standard tests, having originated before the age of 18. Evidence of significant limitations in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.
K22	Athletes who have an intellectual impairment and Down Syndrome as caused by extra genetic material in chromosome 21'.

Wheelchair users	
Athletes with hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, limb deficiency, impaired range of movement, hemiplegia	
K30	Moderate involvement in both legs.
	Coordination issues or involuntary movements affecting all four limbs
	Moderate involvement on one side of their body
	Mild ataxia, athetosis, or dystonia in one arm and leg on the same side or both.
	Unilateral amputation above the knee up to the hip, or a combination of lower limb impairment/s with functional loss in one leg above the knee.
	Unilateral amputation below the knee and above or through the ankle, or a combination of lower-limb impairments with functional loss in one foot, ankle and/or lower leg, or a leg-length difference of more than seven (>7 cm).
	Wheelchair athletes with moderate to severe impairments (including coordination impairments) affecting all four limbs and the trunk. Upper limb strikes and wheelchair propulsion is difficult. Trunk control and muscle power is absent or poor.
	Trunk control is limited and there may be no lower abdominal/spinal activity.
	Hand grasp, release and wheelchair propulsion may be fairly symmetrical between the upper limbs, with little no limitation in execution of upper limb strikes. Trunk control is good.

How do I get classified?

The Classification Session will take place one or two days before World or Continental Championships in the same venue (competition location), using identical or similar conditions as those which are used in the competition.

Where can I find out further information?
World Karate Federation dedicated site
https://www.wkf.net/sport-parakarate