

IRL PHYSICAL DISABILITY RUGBY LEAGUE INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. INCLUSION

To play in PDRL a player must have an eligible physical impairment that is based on a permanent health condition and is considered to alter the biomechanical execution of running, handling the ball and tackling in a way that is demonstrable and which will adversely affect performance.

At this time PDRL is for players with locomotor impairments only, those with sensory or intellectual impairments are not able to play.

2. ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS (IPC, 2016)

- Impaired muscle power
- Ataxia
- Athetosis
- Leg length difference
- Hypertonia
- Impaired passive range of motion
- Limb deficiency/loss
- Short stature

3. NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS (IPC, 2016)

Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment.

Examples of non-eligible impairments include but are not limited to the following.

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Visual impairment
- Intellectual impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions;
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration





4. HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT WILL NOT LEAD TO AN ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT

Certain Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Any Athlete who is only affected by such Health Condition will not be considered for Classification. Examples are:

4.1 Health conditions that primarily cause:

- pain, such as myofascial *pain-dysfunction* syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
- fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.
- psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Health Conditions listed in this article are examples only - there are many other Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. The aim of the list is to assist the clarity of rules governing eligibility. It is possible that an Athlete is affected by more than one Health Condition. In cases where the Athlete has a Health Condition which will not lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome), as well as a Health Condition which may lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as spinal cord injury), the Athlete may still be eligible for Para-sports. However, the following should be noted:

- if an Athlete has at the same time a non-eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete can be evaluated on the basis of the Eligible Impairment. The non-eligible Impairment must not influence the outcome of the evaluation.

- if the non-eligible Impairment interferes with the assessment of an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete Evaluation cannot be completed in accordance with the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation. An example is a case of an Athlete with severe rheumatoid arthritis where the assessment of restricted passive range of movement is impacted by pain.

5.0 HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT ARE MORE AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY

As well as the exclusion criteria recognised by IPC as making classification impossible to be objective IRL also recognises that players with some health conditions are likely to be more at risk of serious injury when playing a contact sport. Examples of this might be where an athlete has a shunt for hydrocephalus, recurrent joint dislocation or is more likely to fracture bones.

Where the underlying condition is complex or the safety of exercise uncertain, then expert specialist opinion should be sought to determine a potential athlete's fitness to participate.

References:

IPC (2016) International Standard for Eligible Impairments. Available at:

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161007092455456_Sec+ii+chapter+1_3_2_subchapter+1_International+Standard+for+Eligible+Impairments.pdf

IPC (2015) IPC Athlete Classification Code. Available at:

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