

= B3 ( classification ) =

B3 is a medical based Paralympic classification for blind sport . Competitors in this classification have partial sight , with visual acuity from 2 / 60 to 6 / 60 . It is used by a number of blind sports including para @-@ alpine skiing , para @-@ Nordic skiing , blind cricket , blind golf , five @-@ a @-@ side football , goalball and judo . Some other sports , including adaptive rowing , athletics and swimming , have equivalents to this class .

The B3 classification was first created by the IBSA in the 1970s , and has largely remained unchanged since despite an effort by the International Paralympic Committee ( IPC ) to move towards a more functional and evidence @-@ based classification system . Classification is often handled on the international level by the International Blind Sports Association ( IBSA ) although it is also handled by national sport federations . There are exceptions for sports like athletics and cycling .

Equipment utilized by competitors in this class may differ from sport to sport , and may include sighted guides , guide rails , beeping balls and clapsticks . There may be some modifications related to equipment and rules to specifically address needs of competitors in this class to allow them to compete in specific sports . Some sports specifically do not allow a guide , whereas cycling and skiing require one .

= = Definition = =

B3 is a disability sport classification for people who have partial vision . The International Blind Sports Federation ( IBSA ) defines this classification as " From visual acuity above 2 / 60 to visual acuity of 6 / 60 and / or visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees . " The Canadian Paralympic Committee defined B3 as " No more than 10 % functional vision . " Competitors in this class " can make out shapes with the help of glasses " .

This classification is borrowed by some other sports , including blind golf who also define the class as " From visual acuity above 20 / 60 up to visual acuity of 6 / 60 and / or visual field of above 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees . " Para @-@ alpine skiing sport specific versions of this definition include one by the Australian Paralympic Committee which defined this classification as " Athletes with slightly more vision or more than five degrees but less than 20 degrees . " The International Paralympic Committee defined B3 for alpine skiing as " From visual acuity above 20 / 60 up to visual acuity of 6 / 60 and / or visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees . " This classification has parallels in other sports . For adaptive rowing , the comparable classification is LTA @-@ B3 ; for athletics , the class is T13 ; and equivalent for swimming is S13 .

IBSA handles classification for a number of sports internationally including five @-@ a @-@ side football , goalball and judo . Part of being classified involves assessing vision for factors including visual acuity , contrast sensitivity , color vision , motion detections and visual field . When being assessed into this class by the IBSA , the process first includes the athlete filling out a consent form , submitting a photograph , and scheduling an appointment with a classifier for evaluation . During the evaluation , the competitor may be accompanied by another person to assist them in communicating with the classifiers . If necessary , the person can also bring a translator . The assessment is then conducted and is medical . There are several status groups used by classifiers that assist in classification . This includes confirmed for competitors who have a visual impairment unlikely to change , Review for competitors who have vision that may fluctuate , New for competitors who have never been classified before , Not Eligible for competitors who have a visual impairment that is not severe enough and not likely to deteriorate in the future to the point where they could be eligible .

Classification is also handled on a national and by sport level . Australians seeking classification for blind sports can be classified by an IBSA classifier or an Australian Paralympic Committee vision impairment classifier . In the United Kingdom , blind sport is handled by British Blind Sport , which is recognized nationally by Sport England . In the United States , governance related to this classification is handled by the United States Association for Blind Athletes ( USABA ) .

Not all sports use IBSA classifiers . For adaptive rowing , classification assignment may be handled by FISA , as was the case at the 2008 Summer Paralympics . In athletics , classification assignment may be handled by the IPC , as was the case at the 2008 Summer Paralympics . Cycling classification assignment for this class may be handled by the UCI , as was the case at the 2008 Summer Paralympic . Otherwise , the swimmer competes under the normal rules governing Fédération Internationale de Natation ( FINA ) , the sport 's highest authority , swimming competitions . Swimming classification handled by IPC Swimming .

= = Sports = =

Eligible Paralympic sports for the B3 classification include adaptive rowing , athletics , cycling five @-@ a @-@ side football , goalball , judo , para @-@ alpine skiing , para @-@ Nordic skiing , and swimming . On the Paralympic level , a number of disability sports are not open to this classification or other visually impaired competitors including archery , basketball , boccia , curling , fencing , ice sledge hockey , powerlifting , rugby , shooting , table tennis , tennis , volleyball . Equestrian sport is not open to Paralympic sport in this classification , and the FEI classification system has no parallel classification available for other levels of national and international competition . For non @-@ Paralympic sports or sports removed from the Paralympic programme , the classification is used in blind golf and lawn bowls .

Performance can differ for this class compared to other blind classes . In swimming , the B1 class is significantly slower than B2 and B3 classes in 100 meter freestyle . The B3 class is significantly faster than B1 and B2 in the 100 meter backstroke .

= = History = =

B3 traces its history to the early history of blind sport . There was a belief that those with vision impairment that was less severe had a competitive advantage over competitors who had more severe impairment . Classification was developed by the IBSA to insure more even competition across the different bands of visual acuity . In 1976 , the International Sports Organization for the Disabled ( ISOD ) developed a blind classification system . Parallel to this , IBSA and national blind sport associations were developing their own classification system , with the IBSA one based on visual acuity in place by 1980 . The rise of the IBSA classification system for blind sport meant the ISOD classification system failed to gain traction in blind sports competition .

The IBSA classification system has largely remained unchanged since it was put in place , even as the International Paralympic Committee ( IPC ) attempted to move towards a more functional disability and evidence based system that does not rely on medical based classification . In 2003 , the IPC made an attempt to address " the overall objective to support and co @-@ ordinate the ongoing development of accurate , reliable , consistent and credible sport focused classification systems and their implementation . " The IPC approved a classification system at the IPC General Assembly in 2007 . This classification was part of the overall blind class group , and was still medically based despite changes in other disability types . IBSA was not prepared at the time to move towards a more functional classification system that is utilized other disability groups and sports .

In some cases , non @-@ Paralympic , non @-@ IBSA affiliated sports have developed their own classification systems . This is the case with blind golf , where a classification existed by 1990 and was used at the Australian Open Golf Tournament for the Blind and Visually Impaired . At that time , four classifications existed and were the same as the IBSA for this class .

= = Equipment = =

Equipment utilized by competitors in the B3 class may include sighted guides , guide rails , beeping balls and clap sticks .

The use of a sighted guide by people in this class is dependent on the specific requirements of the

sport . In athletics , where the parallel classification is T13 , runners do not use guides in competition and generally do not use them in training . In cycling , this classification uses a guide , while utilizing a tandem bicycle with the guide sitting at the front . When a cyclist is looking for a guide , they are encouraged to find one with a pace similar to their own .

In para @-@ alpine and para @-@ Nordic skiing , guides for B2 and B3 skiers often position themselves differently as the skiers have some vision , which means the things a guide assists with will be different from what is required of a skier who has almost no sight . The guide may ski in front of the skier and use visual cues to inform the skier of what is ahead of them on the course .

For S13 swimmers , a tapper may stand on the pool deck to tap the swimmer as they approach the wall . The swimmer has to bring their own tapper . Having a tapper is optional .

In blind archery , B3 archers must use a tactile sighting device , and be unable to use a bowsight .

= = Rules = =

There are some rule differences for the B3 classification in competition that are sport specific . In adaptive rowing 's Coxed Four boat , LTA4 + , the maximum number of rowers from this class allowed in the boat is one . In athletics , T13 runners may get assistance at water stations in longer races . In blind cricket , no more than four players in this class are allowed out of the eleven total players .

While this classifications is open to five @-@ a @-@ side blind football , women are not eligible to compete at the Paralympic Games . This classification is eligible to play goalkeeper but in some competitions is not allowed to be a field player .

In judo , all three blind sport classes compete against each other , with competitors classified by weight for the purposes of competition . Weight classes use the international standards used in the Olympics .

In IBSA sailing competitions , the three person boat can have a maximum of five points , and must include at least one female and one male sailor on the boat . In competitions run by Blind Sailing International , this class sometimes competes only against other boats with where all the sailors are in this class .

In swimming , outside the use of a tapper , the swimmer competes under the normal rules governing FINA swimming competitions .