**18 August 2023**

**To: HOSES, AVT’s, Principals, Sport Coordinators and District Secretaries**

**From: Regional School Sport Officer**

**Re: Multi Class Athlete Classification Process**

**Are you giving every student in your school the opportunity to compete in school sport programs at their ability level?**

**OPPORTUNITY**

Do you have students at your school who compete in Swimming, Cross Country and Track & Field and who have a verified disability in Intellectual Disability (ID), Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI) or Physical Impairment (PI) – including Cerebral Palsy (CP), Spinal Chord Injury (SC), Amputee (A), Les Autres (LA)?

In recent times many students with a disability have been included into mainstream classrooms and programs. They are no longer being recognised as an athlete with a disability at school and district level as they are included in all programs with their peers. However, they do have a disability and should be given the opportunity to proceed to higher levels of competition as an athlete with a disability.

# CLASSIFICATION

All athletes with a disability need to be classified according to the international standard before competing at a state and national level. **This is a different process to verification or EAP.** The classification paperwork is completed by the student’s school and then forwarded to the relevant organization who determines the classification: Swimming Qld for all swimming classifications; For Athletics/Cross Country: Athletics Australia – Physical impairments; Deaf Sports Australia – hearing impaired, Australian Paralympic Committee – visual impairment and Sport Inclusion Australia – intellectual disability. The new process will mean that athletes have a once only National level classification.

Once classified an athlete can compete in sport within the school and all disability sporting programs up to and including world championships and the Paralympics. As the classification process can take considerable time to be completed it is essential that it be undertaken as soon as possible at the start of the school year. **All the information and forms for classification are on the Queensland Representative School Sport website in the section Inclusion section. Use the QRSS website -** [**https://queenslandschoolsport.education.qld.gov.au/inclusion/multi-class-pathways**](https://queenslandschoolsport.education.qld.gov.au/inclusion/multi-class-pathways)

For further information regarding opportunities for Multi Class Athletes in the South West contact Tim Leadbetter at the address below.

Yours in Sport,

**T Leadbetter**

Tim Leadbetter

Regional School Sport Officer