



SCOTTISH DISABILITY
SPORT

Scottish Disability Sport

SDS is often asked who is eligible for disability sport and this paper attempts to answer that question. The first issue to consider is does the child or adult have an eligible condition, and then secondly does that condition or impairment have an impact on his/her ability to compete equitably in sports with mainstream participants. Eligible children, athletes and players will fit into one of the five divisions identified below.

Divisioning for Sports

1. Athletes/Players with a sensory impairment
 - Blind or visually impaired athletes and players
 - Deaf or hearing impaired athletes and players
- 2 Athletes/Players with a physical disability
 - Athletes and players who are ambulant and have a physical disability
 - Athletes and players who use a wheelchair for sports
- 3 Athletes and players with a learning disability

•

Notes:

- An ambulant athlete or player with a physical disability may have a partial or full limb amputation, cerebral palsy, arthritis, short stature (dwarf), spina bifida etc. etc.
- An athlete or player who uses a manual or power chair may have cerebral palsy, spinal paralysis, muscular dystrophy, brittle bones etc.etc.
- Sports for athletes and players with a learning disability should include participants who have an intellectual impairment only e.g. Down's syndrome. Not all pupils on the autistic spectrum have a learning disability. Pupils with dyslexia alone would not qualify.
- Athletes and players with unseen conditions such as epilepsy, asthma or diabetes should not be included unless they have a physical, sensory or learning disability as their primary impairment.
- Athletes and players with emotional or behavioural difficulties who do not have a physical, sensory or learning disability are not eligible for disability sport.
- Some athletes and players who are ambulant and have a physical disability or use a wheelchair may also have a learning disability.
- Some ambulant athletes or players with a physical disability may prefer to participate in a wheelchair for sports.

Richard Brickley MBE - Scottish Disability Sport

July 2009 - updated November 2011