Para Dance Sport — Eligibility, Classification and Impairments

1 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

1.1 All athletes who wish to compete in recognised competitions must:

- **(a)** Hold a valid Athletes Registration with DanceSport Australia.
- **(b)** Adhere to the DanceSport Australia Rules and Regulations.
- **(c)** Provide a Medical Diagnostics Form completed by a registered Australian Medical Practitioner.
- **(d)** Junior competitors must have reached the age of 13 years by 31 December in the year of competition and a maximum of 20 years by 31 December in the year of competition.
- **(e)** To compete in non-Junior competition, competitors must have reached the age of 13 years by 31 December in the year of competition.
- **(f)** Comply and be assigned a Sports Classification in accordance with Para Dance Sport Classification Rules and Regulations.

2 PARA DANCE SPORT CLASSIFICATION

2.1 Classification determines which athletes are eligible to compete and how they are grouped together in competition to minimise the impact of the impairment on the athlete's performance.

2.2 The goal of Classification is to have a system in place that ensures winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus.

2.3 Athletes are grouped into “Sport Classes” by the degree of activity limitation from their impairments.

3 ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS FOR PARA DANCE SPORT

3.1 Para Dance Sport athletes must use a wheelchair and have at least one of the seven types of impairment listed in Rule 4.

3.2 Competitors must have an **Eligible Impairment**, and that Eligible Impairment must be permanent. Impairment is determined through a medical diagnosis by an Australian Medical Doctor.

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4 ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT TYPES

- **(a) Ataxia**
  - Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis
- **(b) Athetosis**
  - Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke
- **(c) Hypertonia**
  - Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke
- **(d) Impaired Muscle Power**
  - Spinal Cord Injury (complete or incomplete, tetra or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida
- **(e) Impaired Passive Range of Movement**
  - Throgryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint
- **(f) Limb Deficiency**
  - Traumatic amputation, illness due to bone cancer, or congenital limb deficiency e.g. dysmelia
- **(g) Leg Length Difference**
  - Must be at least 7cm difference, dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth

5 NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT TYPES FOR PARA SPORTS

- **(a)** Pain
- **(b)** Hearing Impairment
- **(c)** Low Muscle Tone
- **(d)** Hypermobility of Joints
- **(e)** Joint Instability, such as an unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint
- **(f)** Impaired Muscle Endurance
- **(g)** Impaired Motor Flex Functions
- **(h)** Impaired Respiratory Functions
- **(i)** Impaired Cardiovascular Functions
- **(j)** Impairment of Metabolic Functions
- **(k)** Tics and Mannerisms, Stereotypes and Motor Perseveration

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