



INCLUSIVE SPORT CLUBS TOOLKIT

INFORMATION FOR SPORT CLUBS

About

The Inclusion Alliance, formed in 2020, is a collaborative partnership between Sport Inclusion Australia, Deaf Sports Australia and Blind Sports Australia, which maximises resources, expertise and vast experience over many years working to improve the lives of people with a disability through sport.

This shared vision will create an effective way to building the capacity of the sporting, recreational and the fitness sectors to be more inclusive of all people with a disability

Goal

Create a positive sporting culture which embraces diversity and effectively includes anyone who wants to take part. Inclusion is reliant upon the sporting environment having positive attitudes, effective communication and appropriate access.

The First Step

- Make your club a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Focus on the person and their ability first.
- Understand the communication needs of all participants.
- Seek support and ask questions.



INCLUSION ALLIANCE
AUSTRALIA

Important Factors For an Inclusive Club

- A holistic approach to inclusion which is valued by all stakeholders within the Club.
- Choice of membership is provided e.g. social member, participant, coach, or a volunteer.
- Inclusive opportunities ensuring individuals reach their full potential.
- Existing members are encouraged and supported to be welcoming of new members.
- Seek external assistance and resources to assist with education of club to ensure sustainable inclusion.

Communication Tips

- Speak clearly and keep explanations brief and simple.
- Use accurate and specific language when giving directions. For example, "the door is on your left", rather than "the door is over there".
- Name the person when introducing yourself and in a group situation introduce each member and take turns speaking.
- Seek clarification from the participant of their needs and check if help is needed.
- Avoid situations where there is competing noise.
- Be patient and don't rush instructions.
- Face participants when delivering instructions and never channel conversation through a third person.
- Check for understanding by asking questions.
- Use visual aids and signs.
- Be adaptable and flexible in your approach.
- Use body language and age-appropriate tone when communicating.
- Respect all participants for their individuality.
- Use demonstrations to explain verbal instructions.

Classification

Classification/Eligibility is a system where athletes with an impairment have equal opportunities to compete and be successful in disability specific sport events. This system varies across the various impairment groups.

Classification is not necessarily required for individuals wishing to participate in club sport at a social level, or at any level as an integrated member of a mainstream sports team.

WHY?

By grouping similar athletes together, an athlete's disability has less of an impact on the outcomes of competition. This means that classification helps to allow the fastest, strongest or best athletes in each class to succeed in their sport.

WHEN?

If you want to compete in sport as an athlete with a disability, you must undergo a sports-specific classification assessment and hold a classification class.

Benefits of Inclusion

- More diverse and welcoming sporting environment reflective of the community.
- Increased membership, supporter and volunteer base.
- Improved access to social networks.
- Access to additional elite pathways.
- Increased sponsorship and funding opportunities.
- Improved positive public image.
- Reduced barriers and misconceptions.

Contact:

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INCLUSION ALLIANCE FOUNDING MEMBERS



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