

Athletics New Zealand Classes and Categories for Athletes with Intellectual Disability or Autism

II1, also called T20/F20 – Athletes with Intellectual Disability

- This is the **main classification** for athletes with **intellectual disabilities** who meet the standard eligibility criteria as defined by Virtus and World Para Athletics.
- **Eligibility criteria** (based on WHO/APA standards):
 1. **IQ of 75 or lower**
 2. Significant limitations in **adaptive behaviour**
 3. Disability must have manifested **before the age of 22**
- This group competes in Athletics New Zealand Para events and, on meeting the international criteria, World Para Athletics events, including the **Paralympic Games**.
- **The National Classification is T20 (running and jumping) and F20 (throws).**

II2 – Athletes with Intellectual Disability and additional impairments

- This category includes athletes with **intellectual impairment**, accompanied by **additional significant impairments**, (for example, Down syndrome athletes or those who also have cerebral palsy, visual impairment or heart problems, etc)
- The category is designed to **include athletes who would not be competitive** in the II1 category due to the severity of their disability.
- Some Athletics New Zealand and New Zealand Secondary Schools competitions include events for II2 athletes. International competitions for II2 athletes are organized by Virtus but are not yet included within World Para Athletics or Paralympic Games.

II3 – Athletes with Autism

- This category is for athletes with **autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**
- It recognizes the **social and processing challenges** of these athletes.
- Some Athletics New Zealand and New Zealand Secondary Schools competitions include events for II3 athletes. International competitions for II3 athletes are organized by Virtus but are not yet included within World Para Athletics or Paralympic Games.

Each person with intellectual impairment or with Autism is different and will have different strengths and weaknesses affecting their athletics performance. Individuals who meet the criteria for multiple categories can choose which one suits them best as their National Classification or National Category.

Summary Table:

Category	Description	Typical Characteristics	World Para Athletics Eligibility
II1	Standard intellectual disability	$IQ \leq 75$, adaptive behaviour issues, onset < 22	Yes, T20 and F20
II2	Intellectual impairment and additional impairments	ID with additional impairments	No
II3	Autism/ASD	May not meet IQ/adaptive criteria for II1	No

National Process

National Eligibility Application form: [ANZ-PNZ-National-Eligibility-Application-Form-II-Autism-2025.pdf](#)

Completing the application form:

- Page 1 and 2 is completed by the athlete's representative and athlete
- Page 3 and 4 is completed by a medical doctor, pediatrician, or psychologist
- Page 5 is completed by the National Eligibility Officer (NEO)
- The form, together with relevant documents of supporting evidence should then be sent to Athletics New Zealand rebecca@athletics.org.nz
Athletics NZ will then liaise with Paralympics New Zealand to determine eligibility.

Along with the application form, evidence needs to be submitted of a diagnosis of intellectual impairment, or intellectual impairment and significant additional impairment, or autism. Where possible, evidence will be the results of a formal psychological assessment and/or formal diagnosis. If this is not available, then the following will be accepted:

- A signed statement by a psychologist, medical doctor or pediatrician confirming the athlete has an intellectual impairment, autism or intellectual impairment and significant additional impairment. Intellectual impairment must be evident during the developmental period which is from conception to 22 years of age
- Evidence that the student is on ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) because of an intellectual impairment or autism. Including the criteria under which this has been granted
- Evidence (copy of a recent individual education plan) that the student attends a special school, a special unit at a mainstream school, or is in a mainstream class through the support of an adapted curriculum or proof of currently receiving one or more of the following services due to a diagnosis of intellectual impairment or autism: accommodation, employment, financial support

National Eligibility Guidance Notes (need to upload new version to website and provide link)

Changes to Sport Class or Category

If an athlete with a disability has previously been allocated a class or category T20, F20, II2 or II3 by Athletics New Zealand and they would like to consider changing to another class or category they can request a reassessment. The requirements needed to change will be specific to the individual.

International Process

Athletes identified by Athletics New Zealand as having talent and looking to progress on an international Para athletics pathway (World Para Athletics) or Virtus sport pathway will need to go through the formal Virtus Eligibility Process as a prerequisite of attending competitions. Paralympics New Zealand is the national Member Organisation for Virtus and can provide more information about these requirements.

Useful Links

[ANZ-PNZ-National-Eligibility-Application-Form-II-Autism-2025.pdf](#)

[Virtus Intellectual Impairment Sport - Paralympics NZ](#)

[VIRTUS - International Sports Federation for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment](#)