

# IPC Swimming Classifier Pathway

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## Pathway Introduction

The IPC Academy, the education division of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), in collaboration with IPC Swimming, has created an online programme for all people interested in learning about IPC Swimming, but in particular those interested in Swimming Classification (athletes with physical and intellectual impairments). The programme not only provides essential information about classification and how to classify athletes for IPC Swimming competitions, it also is a great information source for coaches, athletes and other people interested in this exciting sport.

## IPC Swimming Classifier Pathway

The online learning programme provides an accessible way of education and training potential classifiers and is a mandatory part of the IPC Swimming International Classifier Pathway (see Figure – Stage 1 of the pathway).

Successful completion of the online learning programme, together with a detailed understanding of either the technical or medical aspects of Paralympic Swimming are required to progress on the Pathway (see Figure – Stage 1). IPC Swimming certifies 2 types of International Classifiers (for assessment of athletes with physical and intellectual impairment (sport-specific assessment part)), dependent on medical or technical qualification:

- **Medical Classifiers:** Candidates must submit copy of their professional qualification as physician or physiotherapist with their application.
- **Technical Classifiers:** Candidates must submit copy of their professional qualification as Bachelor or Master in Sports Science/Physical Education/Kinesiology/Human Movement Science (or equivalent), with major study area in swimming (Note: a qualification as coach or (former) athlete without the above professional qualification is no longer sufficient)

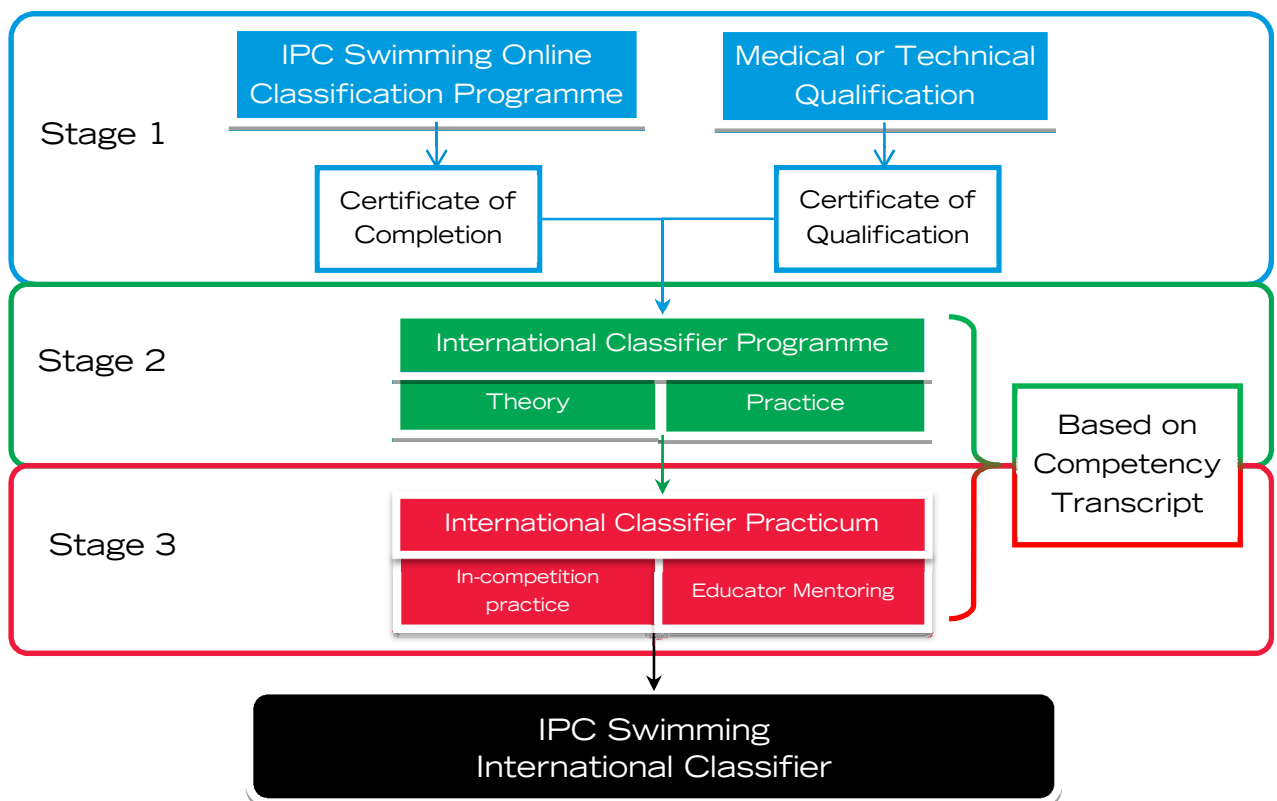
Adequate Knowledge of English is also required.

Individuals meeting the above criteria are then eligible to attend an on-site IPC Swimming Classification Programme. Upon successful completion of the programme individuals shall be awarded an IPC Swimming Trainee International Classifier status (Stage 2). These competency based programmes are run by certified IPC Swimming Classification Educators.

The final stage (Stage 3) is for an IPC Swimming Trainee International Classifier to undertake the Practicum component of the pathway where they are required to assist IPC Swimming Classification Panels whilst being mentored and observed by the IPC Swimming Classification Educator.

Subject to meeting all criteria the successful individuals are certified as an IPC Swimming International Classifier and are eligible to be appointed to International Classification Panels.

### Pathway Structure



An IPC Swimming Classifier certification is valid for a period of four (4) years and an individual must maintain a certain level of activity within this time to retain the certification. An individual must attend further training to renew their certification for a further four (4) year term before the conclusion of the term.

## Programme Information

|   | Online Classification Programme   | International Classifier Programme   |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Mode of delivery</b>                   | Stage 1 - Online Officiating Learning Programme   | Stage 2 – On-site Competency Assessed Programme                              | Stage 3 – Competition Competency Assessed Practicum |
| <b>Programme fees and expenses</b>        | Individual registration fee <sup>+</sup>  | Individual programme fees plus travel, accommodation and meals <sup>++</sup> | Travel, accommodation and meals <sup>+++</sup>      |
| <b>Outcome upon successful completion</b> | Certification of online programme completion (prerequisite to proceed, jointly with relevant qualification) | IPC Swimming Trainee International Classifier Certification                  | IPC Swimming International Classifier Certification |

*+ Details on the registration fees can be found at the IPC Academy Online Programmes website; <http://ipc.worldacademysport.com>. Organizations wishing to enrol several individuals on the Online learning programme please contact the IPC Academy or IPC Swimming to discuss a centralized administration process and discount rates.*

*++ Local hosts deliver On-site Programmes which varies the total cost of programme delivery. IPC Swimming required local programme hosts to collect a programme fee for each individual registration of these programmes. Participants would normally need to cover their own travel, accommodation and meals and pay a registration fee for these programmes. For a list of programmes and calendar please regularly check the IPC Swimming website; [www.ipc-swimming.org/](http://www.ipc-swimming.org/)*

*+++ IPC Swimming will assign the Trainee International Classifier to an IPC Swimming Classification Panel to assess athletes under the supervision of an IPC Swimming Classification Educator. Normally, the Trainee Classifier will need to cover their own travel, accommodation and meals. For a list of recognised competitions and calendar please regularly check the IPC Swimming website; [www.ipc-swimming.org/](http://www.ipc-swimming.org/)*

Entry to the pathway can be undertaken at any time through the IPC Academy website; [www.ipc-academy.org](http://www.ipc-academy.org). An updated calendar of

programmes is also available through the website which shall be updated on a regular basis. On-site programmes shall be run with increasing frequency and with broader geographic spread as the programme develops so please check back frequently for updates over time.

Note:

This programme and classifier pathway does not address classification for athletes with visual impairment. A specific programme exists in joint cooperation with the International Blind Sport Association (IBSA). Candidates for this programme should contact the IPC Academy or IPC Swimming.