

SWAS Talent ID & Development Framework for Para-Athletes

It is envisaged that this framework will support SWAS staff, coaches and parents in reviewing, planning, and supporting para-athlete pathways.

SWAS.

Elite/Mastery

PARALYMPICS/WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

compete & dominate on the world stage

BREAKTHROUGH:

get ready to take on the best

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD:

keep pushing for National selection

PROVE IT:

use your skill & determination to reach a state level

REPRESENT:

show your potential with regional representation

Talent

GAME TIME:

connect with a local club

LEARN THE SKILLS:

find a sport to suit you

GET MOVING:

make physical activity part of your everyday

Foundation



The traditional pathway model is not replicated within each para-sport. This highlights the need for an athlete-centred approach where the pathway is dependent on the individual athlete, their sport of choice, the opportunities within the sport and whether the disability or impairment is congenital or acquired. This is also dependent on the nature of their disability/impairment as the pathways for athletes with physical, vision and intellectual impairment are all different.

SWAS Talent ID & Development Framework for Para-Athletes: Unpacked

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Elite/Mastery

A Paralympic/World Championship medalist over consecutive or multiple high-performance cycles.



Talent

- T4** Breakthrough and reward: Gaining additional formalised and professional support for continued development i.e., earning a VIS scholarship. Performing well at a key event (e.g., a major championship) can also be a critical milestone.
- T3** Practising and achieving: Committing to daily training in a high-performance environment and striving for continual performance improvements.
- T2** Talent verification: Consistently demonstrating required skill, psychological and physical capabilities at national training camps and state/national level competitions. Para-athletes should be seeking a national level classification.
- T1** Demonstration of potential: Performance potential identified through demonstration of skill at a regional/state level. Para-athletes may be eligible for additional support through the **SWAS Individual Athlete Program**.

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Foundation

- F3** Sport Specific Commitment and/or Competition: Committing to regular training and is competing for a local club. In this phase, clubs, coaches, private providers, and the individual are responsible for athlete development. Para-athletes should have a provisional classification for each sport they are training for.
- F2** Extension and Refinement of Movement: Participating in organised activities at school and/or local club i.e., school sports, Autism Swim, All Abilities Auskick, multi-sport come and try event etc. In this phase, family, friends, teachers, clubs, and allied health professionals are responsible for athlete development. Para-athletes are encouraged to obtain a provisional classification for each sport they are training for.
- F1** Learning and Acquisition of Basic Movement: Learning or re-learning (if the disability is acquired) a wide range of fundamental movement skills. In this phase, family, friends, teachers, and allied health professionals are responsible for athlete development.

* Given the breadth of classified impairments, some para-athletes may progress through the stages more rapidly than others. Individual sporting pathways should be cross-checked with the relevant State Sporting Association or National Sporting Organisation.



SWAS acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.