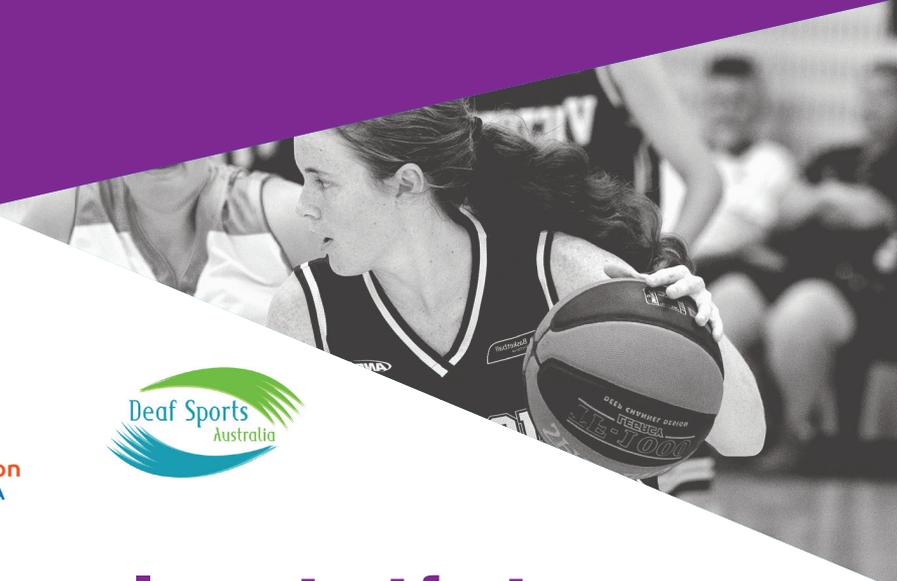


INCLUSIVE SPORTS CLUB TOOLKIT

INFORMATION FOR SPORTS CLUBS



About

Sport Inclusion Australia, Deaf Sport Australia and Blind Sport Australia have developed a collaborative partnership to maximise resources, expertise and vast experience over many years working within the sector. This shared vision will create an effective way of building the capacity of sport, recreation and the fitness industry to be more inclusive.

The goal is to create a positive sporting culture that 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.

Taking the first step:

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

Important factors:

- Strong policies and practices that represent an inclusive culture
- Principles of inclusion embedded from grass roots participation to elite competition
- Successful inclusion models are effectively shared within the sport
- A holistic approach to inclusion that is valued by all stakeholders within the sport
- Choice of membership is provided e.g. social member, participant, coach, or a volunteer
- Inclusive pathways ensuring individuals reach their full potential
- Existing members are encouraged and supported to be welcoming of new members
- Open and flexible while developing ongoing inclusion principles
- Seeking external assistance if required to ensure sustainable inclusion

Communication issues to consider:

- Speak clearly and concisely
- Check for understanding by asking questions
- Be patient and don't rush instructions
- Be adaptable and flexible in your approach
- Keep it simple where possible
- Talk using age appropriate language
- Seek clarification from the participant of their needs
- Respect all participants for their individuality

Classification

Individuals wishing to participate in club sport at a social level, or at any level as an integrated member of a mainstream sports team, do not require a classification. However, individuals wishing to compete in disability specific sport require a classification; this applies to events at school, state, national and international level.

WHY?

By grouping similar athletes together, an athlete's disability plays 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:

- Increased membership
- Access to additional elite pathways
- Increased sponsorship and funding opportunities
- Increased networks
- Increased support and volunteer base
- Greater publicity and positive public image
- More cohesive and diverse sporting community
- Barriers and misconceptions allayed



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sport Inclusion Australia
sportinclusionaustralia.org.au

Deaf Sports Australia
deafsports.org.au

Blind Sports Australia
blindsportsaustralia.com.au