



CLASSIFICATION GUIDANCE

LEARNING DISABILITY & AUTISM COMPETITIONS

DECEMBER 2025

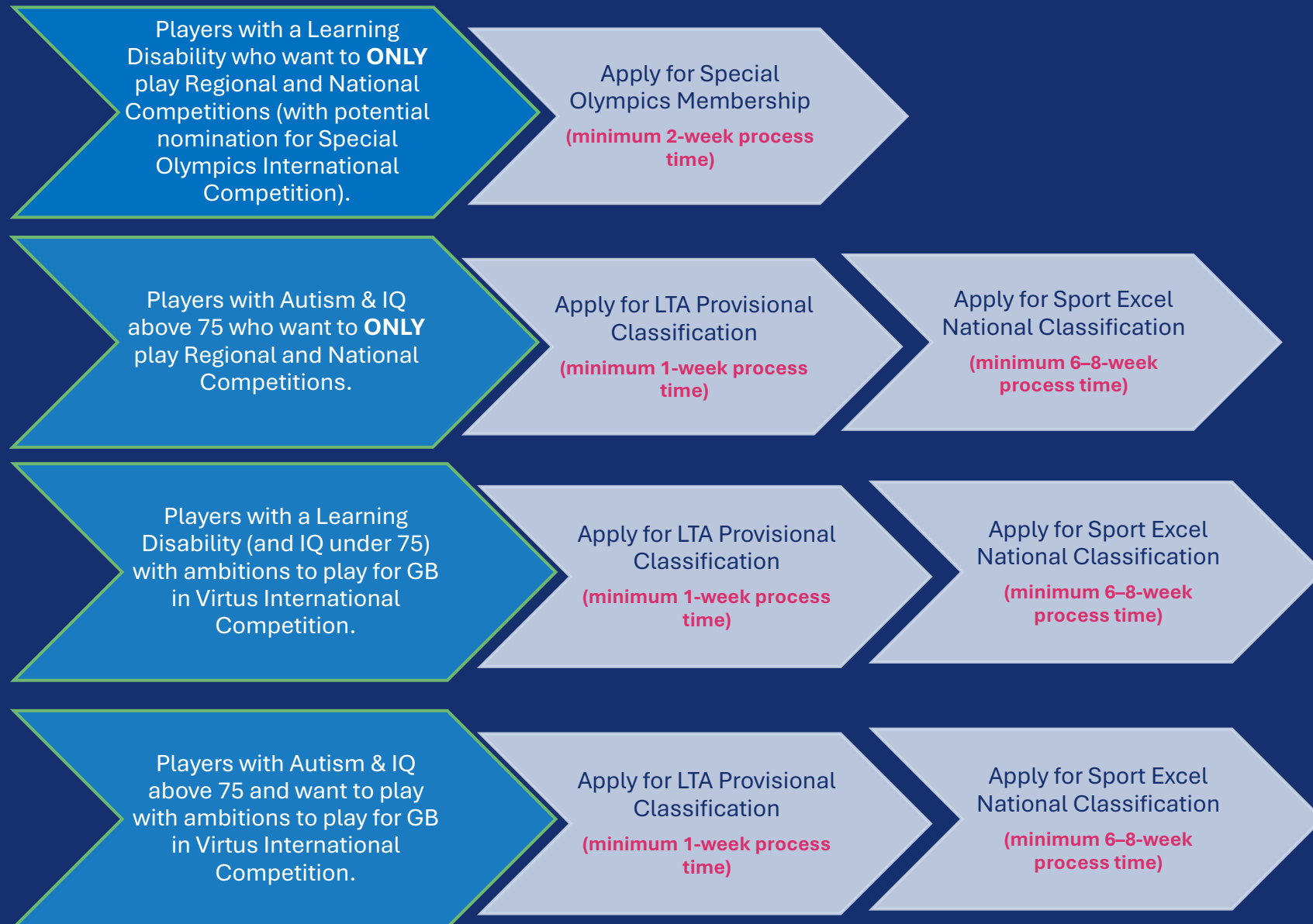


IMPORTANT INFORMATION



- From January 2026 the LTA will be implementing a classification process for all players looking to compete in LTA Regional and National Competitions.
- This classification will not be required for players competing in local competitions (such as an event at their club).
- If you are already classified through the following avenues, you will not be required to re-classify:
 1. **You are already a member of Special Olympics GB**
 2. **You are already affiliation with Scottish Learning Disability Sport**
 3. **You have received a Sport Excel National Classification**
 4. **You have received a Sport Excel Virtus International Classification**
- LTA Regional and National Competitions are open to players within the following classifications:
 1. **Players with a Learning Disability (also known as II1)**
 2. **Players with a Learning Disability and Down Syndrome (also known as II2)**
 3. **Players with Autism (and an IQ above 75 – also known II3)**
- The LTA will be supporting players by providing provisional classifications due to the length of the process with Sport Excel. The process is outlined in this document.
- Players **will not** be able to compete in Regional or National Competition in 2026 without a provisional or formal classification.
- Please read the guidance in the following slides to understand the best classification option for you or a player you support. If you do have any questions, please do contact the LTA [HERE](#) and we can provide guidance.

WHICH CLASSIFICATION SHOULD I APPLY FOR AS PLAYER IN ENGLAND & WALES?



WHICH CLASSIFICATION SHOULD I APPLY FOR AS PLAYER IN SCOTLAND?



LTA PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The LTA will be implementing a provisional classification for all players looking to apply for a new formal classification through Scottish Learning Disability Sport and Sport Excel.

A provisional classification will act as a 6-month temporary classification which will allow players to compete in LTA Regional Competition.

Players will only be allowed 1 provisional classification.

An LTA Provisional Classification will not be provided without confirmation that a player has applied for one of formal classification avenues set out in the previous slide. Please note a confirmed LTA Provisional Classification does not result in a confirmed formal classification through Sport Excel.

Please note to be eligible to compete in the first competition of 2026, we will require completed forms with the appropriate documentation attached by the 23rd January.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Complete the form using the QR code; providing evidence of:
 - **Letter from GB or Medical Diagnosis of Learning Disability or Autism; or**
 - **EHCP**
 - **SEN report**
- If you are new to Learning Disability and Autism Competition, please can you also complete the information on playing standard to help support with divisioning for your first competition.
- The LTA will review the information required and provide you with a PDF of your provisional classification.
- Once you have a confirmed formal classification, please email Disabilitycompetitions@LTA.org.uk to ensure we can update this on our system.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS (SOGB) MEMBERSHIP



Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with an intellectual (learning) disability who is at least eight years of age and who is registered to participate in Special Olympics.

Players with Autism and a Learning Disability can apply for Special Olympics Membership. Please refer to the [Special Olympics GB Eligibility Criteria](#) for more information. An annual fee may be applicable later.

Please note to be eligible to compete in the first competition of 2026, SOGB will require completed forms with the appropriate documentation attached by the 23rd January.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

To register an athlete with Special Olympics GB please complete the: [Athlete Registration Form](#) (or use the QR code below)



To complete this form, you will need a passport style photograph and to provide eligibility endorsement material.

This must be provided by a professional associated with the individual personally, in an appropriate position, to understand what the definition of intellectual (learning) disability means, for example:

- Educational or Clinical Psychologist
- Medical Doctor, Geneticist or medical professional
- Teacher or SENCO
- Local intellectual (learning) disability team advisor (local authority)
- Manager of a care home
- CEO or senior leader of an intellectual (learning) disability specific organisation
- Social Worker

The **eligibility endorsement form** is available to **download [here](#)** on our website.

Eligibility endorsement material can take many forms, including a letter or copy information from a professional (a clinical or educational psychology report, SEN report or letter from your GP), which contains sufficient evidence supporting the conclusion that the athlete has an intellectual (learning) disability in line with the Special Olympics GB Eligibility Criteria.

Contact details: athletes@sogb.org.uk.

SPORT EXCEL CLASSIFICATION

There are two types of classification applications through Sport Excel:

National (Sport Excel) – For players competing in Regional and National Tournaments.
International (Virtus) – For players looking to compete Internationally at Virtus Events.

Contact details: classification@sportexceluk.org

REGISTRATION PROCESS

National Level

Cost: £50

Time scale: 6-8 weeks

Requirements:

1. Complete the form [here](#).
 - Ensure to check and complete the relevant sections based on which classification you are applying for i.e.
 - II1 – Players with a Learning Disability
 - II2 – Players with a Learning Disability and Down Syndrome
 - II3 – Players with Autism

Please find additional guidance to complete the form [here](#).

International Level

Cost: £120

Time scale: 6-8 weeks

Requirements:

1. Confirm with the LTA before applying for International Classification.
2. Complete the form [here](#).
 - Page 1 and 2 should be completed for **ALL** athletes or representative.
 - For all athletes with Down syndrome Appendix 1 should also be completed.
 - The form together with all supporting evidence should then be sent back to the LTA as a physical copy to:
 - **FAO LTA Competitions Team, National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, London, SW15 5JW**
 - Please also email a photocopied version of your application to Disabilitycompetition@lta.org.uk.
 - The LTA will complete Page 3 (Eligibility Officer) and Page 4 (Endorsements).

All sections must be completed in full as incomplete applications or those that are not completed properly will be returned causing delays.

Please find additional guidance on requirements and to complete the form [here](#).

SCOTLAND LEARNING DISABILITY SPORT AFFILIATION



To register an athlete with Scotland Learning Disability Sport the following must be completed and submitted to the Regional Contact in your respect area.

Ahead of the first regional tournament of the year, please can we ask any newly registered players to apply for an LTA Provisional Classification to ensure you're able to compete. Details of this and the timeframe are on the previous slide.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Athletes are required to complete the registration form in full, either independently or with support from a parent, carer or support worker/coach if required.

FORM HERE – [Scotland Learning Disability Sport Athlete Registration Form 2025](#)

This also includes:

- **Signed Athlete Registration Form along with the Athlete Release Form**
- **A digital passport style photo**
- **Evidence of Athlete Eligibility**

Eligibility endorsement material must be provided by a professional associated with the individual personally, in an appropriate position to understand what the definition of learning disability means, for example:

Educational or Clinical Psychologist /Medical Doctor or Geneticist/ Head Teacher/ Local intellectual learning disability team advisor (local authority)/ Manager of a care home/ CEO of an intellectual learning disability specific organisation /Social Worker

- Submit to form to your Regional Chair of the area in which the reside, along with the necessary eligibility documents. (Contacts show on this slide)
- Once submitted and approved by the Regional Chair/eligibility group this allows the athlete to be formally recognised as registered with SLDS.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Borders: Greig Shortreed
greig.shortreed@scotborders.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway:- Sandra Proudfoot
sandra.proudfoot@dumgal.gov.uk

Highland: hdsport1982@gmail.com

Shetland: Stephanie Bain
stephanie.bain@shetland.org

West of Scotland: Joan O'Sullivan
joanosullivan@hotmail.co.uk

Tayside: Laura Smith
Laura.AP.Smith@angusalive.scot

Lothian: Lynne Sturgeon
lothiansld@gmail.com



TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN