

“...developing a gold-standard approach to athlete eligibility...”

Key questions and discussion:

1. How do we undertake an Adaptive Behaviour Assessment by clinical observation?

Inas recognises that some nations do not have formally validated adaptive behaviour tests such as Vineland or ABAS. In such countries, it is acceptable to submit a report based on clinical observation. This should be undertaken by a qualified psychologist and should cover all the main areas including communication, self-care, self-direction, social/interpersonal skills and ability to respond to life changes and environmental demands.

It is important that observation is undertaken over a period of time (ie. more than one meeting) and is based upon the views of a range of people – usually the athlete themselves, parents/carers, a coach or school teacher, in order that a comprehensive picture is established.

A full overview of the requirements is included in the Inas Guidance Notes and the latest edition of the AAIDD manual on Intellectual Disability (see the link below) includes a section on assessment by clinical observation.

2. What is the difference between a Full and Provisional Eligibility Registration?

Full Eligibility is a requirement for athletes participating in all Inas World and Regional Championships, and is compulsory for all athletes seeking entry to Paralympic competition.

Provisional Eligibility was introduced in 2013 to support our developing sports. Although the eligibility criteria is the same, the level of evidence required to support an application is lower. The aim is to provide a quicker and more economical 'first-step' towards eligibility to grow developing sports and is used in some countries as a requirement for national competition.

3. What is doing to establish an additional eligibility class?

The 2013 General Assembly supported a motion that asked Inas to research the potential for introducing an additional eligibility class within Inas competition for athletes with more severe or multiple impairments. Inas began a research project, led by an intern student, at which we have been assessing the impact of

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severe or multiple impairments on sports performance. The research has created many difficult questions that need to be answered before we can make a decision – for example how would we define an additional class (or classes), what evidence would be needed for an athlete to be eligible for an additional class, and where would the cut-off be?

The research project is likely to be concluded towards the end of 2014 and Inas will report progress early in 2015.

4. What happens if a country does not have a National Eligibility Officer

Countries that do not have a National Eligibility Officer cannot submit eligibility applications. In rare circumstances, we may allow countries to work together (for example a new member might work with an established member until such time as the process is established and NEO is confident to undertake the role independently).

We recommend nations who find it difficult to identify an NEO to contact Inas for help and guidance.

5. Can an athlete re-apply if they are rejected?

Inas occasionally determine that an athlete cannot be registered for competition within the intellectual disability class. In such circumstances, the athlete has a period of time in which to appeal the decision and the details of this are set out in the eligibility policy (available on the Inas website).

An athlete may reapply only after a period of time (defined in the policy) where new and credible evidence is available.

6. How important is proof of age of onset?

The eligibility criteria has 3 components (and IQ of 75 or below, significant limitation in adaptive behaviour and proof that the onset of disability before the age of 18). All 3 criteria must be met and evidence is needed to support them.

In the case of onset, this is normally evidenced by the results of an IQ assessment undertaken pre-18 together with an overview of the athlete's background and history (eg relevant medical history and schooling). A statement is needed from the psychologist explaining how the criterion is met, and what evidence the diagnosis is being made.



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7. What happens if IQ is 75 or below, but Adaptive Behaviour is high?

The athlete would not be eligible to compete within the intellectual disability classification.

8. Can the National Eligibility Officer undertake the athlete assessment?

No – the NEO and the psychologist who undertakes the athlete assessment should be different people. This ensures that the NEO can independently check the reports before they are submitted to Inas.

9. Can the IPC or other International Federations find athletes ineligible who appear on the Inas Master List?

Yes. In some sports, athletes who wish to enter Paralympic competition will be asked to undertake sports classification. The results of this will take precedence over the primary eligibility process *in that sport*.

Athletes who are found ineligible in sports classification will also subsequently be considered ineligible for Inas competition in that sport, but may be eligible for others sports.

This is because sports classification is undertaken on a sport by sport basis. The Inas eligibility and classification policy (available on the Inas website) explains this in more detail.

10. What happens if we have an IQ test or Adaptive Behaviour assessment that has been developed for use in our country and it is not on the list of INAS accepted measures?

Contact Inas. In a very few circumstances additional measures have been accepted for use in specific countries. To do this we need a very strong rational for inclusion, encompassing evidence that the test is being used as a common alternative to accepted measures and/or there are legal or professional requirements for its usage above other measures. It must also meet rigorous psychometric standards equivalent to those met by accepted tests. Accepting additional tests is a rare circumstance.

11. Where can we buy a copy of the AAIDD manual on Intellectual Disability?

For a copy of the AAIDD manual, visit <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Intellectual-Disability-Definition-Classification-Supports/dp/1935304046>

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