



A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE THROUGH SPORT

SIGHT CLASSIFICATION

For those wishing to take part in national or international competition there are three defined degrees of 'blindness' laid down by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).

B1 is defined as from a total lack of sight to light perception but the inability to recognise shapes.

B2 is defined as better than B1 to a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or a field of vision of less than 5 degrees.

B3 is defined as better than B2 up to a visual acuity of 6/60 and/or a field of vision of less than 20 degrees.

B1 is quite straight forward – if at best you can't do better than distinguish between light and dark it's easy to understand.

B2 and B3 are more of a problem for fully sighted people to understand. Most people have had their sight tested at one time or another. Imagine looking at an optician's chart. This has letters displayed in lines. The top line has one letter, the second line two, the third line three and so on. If you can only read the top letter at two metres distance, then you have acuity of 2/60. If you can read at it six metres then you have acuity of 6/60.

Next, imagine you are standing in the middle of a clock face and looking towards 12 o'clock. If you can only see what exists between half a minute to 12 and half a minute past 12 then you have a field vision of six degrees. If you can see just more than one and a half minutes to twelve and one and a half minutes past 12 then you have field vision of 20 degrees.

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A B4 and B4+ classification is generally accepted in the UK for those who cannot be classified.

To get a formal sight classification you need to take the sight classification form, available from BBS Head Office www.britishblindsport.org.uk, to an optician, ophthalmologist or consultant and once completed return it to the office where it will then go to a sight classifier who allocates the appropriate classification. The individual then receives a sight classification card which is accepted throughout disability sport. When attending international competition, particularly for the first time further classification tests will be required and changes can be made.

4 Steps to a Sight Classification (National Classification)

British Blind Sport can arrange to have your sight classified with the following steps:

1. Download a sight classification form from our website www.britishblindsport.org.uk, or alternatively we can send you one in the post.
2. You will need to take this to either a High Street optician or your eye consultant as the form needs to be completed in full, both acuity and field measurements. If you are unable to have a field measurement carried out for any reason, this needs to be recorded on the form as to why.
3. When the form is completed you will need to send to us at the address on the form and we will send it to our classifiers for classification. The turnaround time on this is approx. one week. Sorry, but we cannot give classifications over the phone.
4. When the classification has been given, we will record this on our database and return the original form to you. On the form, it will explain how long the classification lasts for and an expiry date.