

Appendix Table A1.

Section	Questions	Answers: # (% after exclusions)	Consensus? (Round consensus achieved)
Section 1: Aim of classification	Do you believe that the current classification system for vision impairment track athletics fulfils the aim to minimise the impact of vision impairment on the outcome of competition?	Yes: 2 (13%) No: 4 (25%) Partially: 10 (62%)	Yes (1)
Section 2: Minimum impairment criteria	Do you believe that it is feasible that some vision impairment athletes could have a level of vision impairment that clearly decreases their performance in able-sighted track athletics, yet they may be so skilled and/or so well-trained that they are still able to compete in track athletics for able-sighted athletes (e.g., in World Championships or in the Olympic Games)?	Yes: 15 (88%) No: 2 (12%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (1)
	Which of the following options reflects your views on vision impairment athletes competing in able sighted athletics?	I believe that a VI athlete should be allowed to compete in both able-sighted and VI track athletics: 13 (76%) I believe that a VI athlete should not be allowed to compete in both able-sighted and VI track athletics: 4 (24%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (1)
	Do you believe that those athletes with the least severe impairment to their visual acuity in the T13 class are limited in their athletic performance by their impairment?	Yes: 14 (93%) No: 1 (7%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (2)
	Do you believe that those athletes with the least severe impairment to their visual field in the T13 class are limited in their athletic performance by their impairment?	Yes: 13 (93%) No: 1 (7%) I don't feel qualified: 1	Yes (2)
	Do you believe that the impact of a visual field impairment on running performance is dependent on the location of an athlete's remaining visual field?	Yes: 12 (100%) No: 0 I don't feel qualified: 3	Yes (2)
	Do you believe the location of an athlete's remaining visual field is important enough to be accounted for when setting the minimum impairment criteria for visual field?	Yes: 12 (92%) No: 1 (8%) I don't feel qualified: 2	Yes (2)

Please rank how important the following areas are for optimal running performance (if you do not feel qualified to answer this question, please place that option as your highest rank)

Central visual field

1: **6**

Yes (2)

2: **4**

3: **0**

4: **0**

5: **0**

Peripheral visual field

1: **0**

2: **4**

3: **6**

4: **0**

5: **0**

Inferior visual field

1: **0**

2: **1**

3: **3**

4: **6**

5: **0**

Superior visual field

1: **0**

2: **1**

3: **1**

4: **4**

5: **4**

I don't feel qualified

1: **4**

2: **1**

3: **1**

4: **4**

5: **6**

Section 3: Sport classes*

Do you believe that a class system is necessary to separate eligible vision impairment athletes into different classes?

Yes: **16 (94%)**

Yes (1)

No: **1 (6%)**

I don't feel qualified: **0**

For each of the following running events, do you believe that the use of the current classes (T13, T12, and T11) allows for the fairest competition?

100m

Yes: **11 (79%)**

No: **3 (21%)**

I don't feel qualified: **3**

Yes (1)

200m

Yes: **11 (79%)**

No: **1 (21%)**

I don't feel qualified: **3**

Yes (1)

400m

Yes: **12 (80%)**

No: **3 (20%)**

I don't feel qualified: **2**

Yes (1)

800m

Yes: **11 (69%)**

No: **5 (31%)**

I don't feel qualified: **1**

No (1)

1500m

Yes: **11 (69%)**

No: **5 (31%)**

I don't feel qualified: **1**

No (1)

5000m

Yes: **10 (63%)**

No: **6 (37%)**

I don't feel qualified: **1**

No (1)

Marathon

Yes: **10 (67%)**

No: **5 (33%)**

I don't feel qualified: **2**

No (1)

Do you believe there is any possible scenario in which an athlete classified based on their visual acuity and an athlete classified based on their visual field should not compete in the same class against each other?

Yes: **3 (30%)**

No: **7 (70%)**

I don't feel qualified: **5**

No (3)

If all athletes who run with a guide were to compete together in one class, do you believe that athletes should compete without a blindfold?

Yes: **3 (20%)**

No: **12 (80%)**

I don't feel qualified: **0**

Yes (2)

Please state whether you agree with the following statement: "Middle/long distance vision impairment races should be run in two classes: one class for athletes who run with a guide while blindfolded, and one class for athletes who run without a guide and without a blindfold."

Yes: **10 (77%)**

No: **3 (23%)**

I don't feel qualified: **2**

Yes (3)

<p>Please consider a competition scenario where blindfolds are rigorously enforced. If the use of a blindfold was rigorously enforced, do you believe that all athletes who run with a guide should compete together in the same class?</p>	<p>Yes: 9 (60%) No: 6 (40%) I don't feel qualified: 0</p>	<p>No (3)</p>
<p>In short distance races (100m, 200m, and 400m), do you believe that guided and unguided T12 athletes should compete against each other in the same class?</p>	<p>Yes: 4 (27%) No - unguided T12 athletes have an advantage: 4 (27%) No - guided T12 athletes have an advantage: 7 (46%) I don't feel qualified: 0</p>	<p>No (3)</p>
<p>In middle/long distance races (800m, 1500m, 5000m, and Marathon), do you believe that guided and unguided T12 athletes should compete against each other in the same class?</p>	<p>Yes: 5 (33%) No - unguided T12 athletes have an advantage: 2 (13%) No - guided T12 athletes have an advantage: 8 (54%) I don't feel qualified: 0</p>	<p>No (3)</p>
<p>Consider the following track races between two T13 athletes, where one athlete is classified based on the basis of an impairment to their visual acuity and the other one is classified on the basis of an impairment to their visual field. In each of these events, please indicate whether or not you believe that one of these athletes has an advantage over the other.</p>		
<p><i>100m</i></p>	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 4 (36%) The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 0 No athlete has an advantage over the other: 7 (64%) I don't feel qualified: 6</p>	<p>No (1)</p>
<p><i>200m</i></p>	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 5 (50%) The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 0 No athlete has an advantage over the other: 5 (50%) I don't feel qualified: 7</p>	<p>No (1)</p>
<p><i>400m</i></p>	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 4 (44%) The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 0 No athlete has an advantage over the other: 5 (56%) I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	<p>No (1)</p>

800m	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 3 (30%)</p> <p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 4 (40%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 3 (30%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 7</p>	No (1)
1500m	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 1 (10%)</p> <p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 5 (50%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (40%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 7</p>	No (1)
5000m	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 1 (10%)</p> <p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 5 (50%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (40%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 7</p>	No (1)
Marathon	<p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 2 (22%)</p> <p>The T13 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 3 (33%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (44%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	No (1)
<p>Consider the following track races between two T12 athletes, where one athlete is classified based on the basis of an impairment to their visual acuity and the other one is classified on the basis of an impairment to their visual field. In each of these events, please indicate whether or not you believe that one of these athletes has an advantage over the other.</p>		
100m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 3 (30%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 1 (10%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 6 (60%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 7</p>	No (1)

200m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 4 (44%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 0</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 5 (55%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	No (1)
400m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 4 (50%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 0</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (50%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 9</p>	No (1)
800m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 1 (11%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 4 (44%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (44%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	No (1)
1500m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 1 (11%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 4 (44%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (44%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	No (1)
5000m	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 1 (11%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 4 (44%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 4 (44%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 8</p>	No (1)
Marathon	<p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual acuity has an advantage: 3 (37.5%)</p> <p>The T12 athlete classified on the basis of their visual field has an advantage: 2 (25%)</p> <p>No athlete has an advantage over the other: 3 (37.5%)</p> <p>I don't feel qualified: 9</p>	No (1)

Section 4: Measures of visual function used in classification*	Do you believe that assessing visual acuity provides an appropriate test to assess the impact of vision impairment on track athletics performance?	Yes: 12 (86%) No: 2 (14%) I don't feel qualified: 1	Yes (2)
	Do you believe that assessing visual field provides an appropriate test to assess the impact of vision impairment on track athletics performance?	Yes: 12 (80%) No: 3 (20%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (2)
	Do you believe that the assessment of visual acuity and visual field are the only measures of visual function that should be used for classification in vision impairment track athletics?	Yes: 2 (20%) No: 8 (80%) I don't feel qualified: 7	Yes (1)
Section 5: Classification procedures	Which of the following statements do you agree with most?	Classification should be based on the results when the athlete performs the vision test with their best eye: 3 (19%) Classification should be based on the results when the athlete performs the vision test with their worst eye: 0 Classification should be based on the results when the athlete performs the vision test with both eyes: 13 (81%) I don't feel qualified: 1	Yes (1)
	Do you believe that there is any possible scenario where a T12 or T13 athlete would not be able to wear their best optical correction during competition?	Yes: 3 (23%) No: 10 (77%) I don't feel qualified: 2	Yes (2)
	During classification, should an athlete's visual function be assessed while wearing their best optical correction?	Yes - athletes should need to wear their best optical correction during classification: 12 (86%) No - if an athlete chooses not to wear their best optical correction during competition, then they should be classified without that optical correction: 2 (14%) I don't feel qualified: 1	Yes (3)
	Do you believe that some vision impairment track athletes are currently intentionally misrepresenting their level of vision impairment?	Yes: 14 (93%) No: 1 (7%) I don't feel qualified: 2	Yes (1)
	Do you believe that there are some vision impairment track athletes currently competing who should actually be classified as not eligible, but have been found eligible to compete because they intentionally misrepresented their level of visual ability?	Yes: 7 (87%) No: 1 (13%) I don't feel qualified: 6	Yes (1)

Section 6: Impact of vision impairment on specific aspects of track athletics performance

Which specific aspects of short-distance running performance (if any) do you believe would become worse in the presence of a vision impairment in each of the following races? You can choose as many or as few options as you want to.

100m

Time out of the blocks: **4**
 First portion of the race with the aim to attain maximum speed: **9**
 Navigation within lanes: **10**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **10**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **3**
 Stride length: **5**
 Stride rate (cadence): **5**
 Forward reach for the finish line: **13**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **1**
 I don't feel qualified: **2**

200m

Time out of the blocks: **5**
 First portion of the race with the aim to attain maximum speed: **9**
 Navigation within lanes: **13**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **12**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **13**
 Stride length: **5**
 Stride rate (cadence): **5**
 Forward reach for the finish line: **12**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **1**
 I don't feel qualified: **2**

400m

Time out of the blocks: **3**
 First portion of the race with the aim to attain maximum speed: **6**
 Navigation within lanes: **13**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **15**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **14**
 Stride length: **4**
 Stride rate (cadence): **5**
 Forward reach for the finish line: **12**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **1**
 I don't feel qualified: **3**

Which specific aspects of medium/long-distance running performance (if any) do you believe would become worse in the presence of a vision impairment in each of the following races? You can choose as many or as few options as you want to.

800m

Navigation around competitors at the start: **13**
 Navigation around the track and competitors: **14**
 Navigation relative to competitors: **13**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **12**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **8**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **0**
 I don't feel qualified: **3**

1500m

Navigation around competitors at the start: **12**
 Navigation around the track and competitors: **14**
 Navigation relative to competitors: **13**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **12**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **8**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **0**
 I don't feel qualified: **3**

5000m

Navigation around competitors at the start: **12**
 Navigation around the track and competitors: **12**
 Navigation relative to competitors: **13**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **11**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **8**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **1**
 I don't feel qualified: **3**

Marathon

Navigation around competitors at the start: **12**
 Navigation around the track and competitors: **10**
 Navigation relative to competitors: **9**
 Monitoring position of competitors: **11**
 Transition between bend to straight track running: **5**
 No adverse effects on performance in this race: **1**
 I don't feel qualified: **4**

Section 7: Impact of a congenital compared to an acquired impairment	Do you believe that the age at which a vision impairment is acquired should be taken into account during classification?	Yes: 5 (33%) No: 10 (67%) I don't feel qualified: 2	No (1)
	Imagine a scenario where two runners who have the same level of vision impairment but differ in the age at which the impairment was acquired. One athlete has a congenital impairment (present at birth) and the other an acquired impairment (developed as an adult). Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?	The athlete with the congenital impairment has an advantage: 2 (14%) The athlete with the acquired impairment has an advantage: 6 (43%) The impact of the impairment is the same for the two athletes: 6 (43%) I don't feel qualified: 3	No (1)
	For athletes who are completely blind, do you believe that the age at which the impairment was acquired will influence how much the impairment impacts their running performance?	Yes: 8 (73%) No: 3 (27%) I don't feel qualified: 4	No (2)
	Imagine that evidence shows that the age that athletes acquire their vision impairment significantly impacts their ability to acquire skill in running. For athletes who are completely blind, do you believe that the benefits of accounting for the age that an athlete acquired their impairment would outweigh the added complexity in classification?	Yes: 2 (22%) No: 7 (78%) I don't feel qualified: 6	Yes (2)
	For athletes who have some remaining vision, do you believe the age at which the impairment was acquired will influence how much the impairment impacts their running performance?	Yes: 7 (64%) No: 4 (36%) I don't feel qualified: 4	No (2)
Section 8: Use of blindfolds	Do you believe the use of blindfolds is a fair way of equalising the impact of impairment on performance in the T11 class (i.e. to equalise those with some and those with no vision)?	Yes: 17 (100%) No: 0 I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (1)
	Do you believe that the use of blindfolds is an appropriate way to create fairer competition in vision impairment track athletics?	Yes: 14 (82%) No: 3 (18%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (1)
	Do you believe that all track athletes should be required to wear a blindfold and compete in a single class?	Yes: 1 (7%) No: 14 (93%) I don't feel qualified: 0	Yes (2)

* Follow-up questions on the potential additional measures of visual function (Section 4) and the impact of vision impairment on specific components of running performance race (Section 6) can be found in Tables 3, 4 and 5.