

There are a number of different ways by which we refer to the classification of deaf swimmers. The terms A and B are used by GBDSC only for the purposes of differentiating different levels of hearing loss for the purposes of our national competitions: the S category is used by the ASA/SASA/WASA to designate a swimmer with a recognised disability. Please see the table below:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Hearing loss of:</b>	<b>Further information</b>
Hearing Impaired	Any level	For ASA/SASA/WASA purposes only: this is a self-declaration by the swimmer and will be noted on the ASA database as HI if the appropriate box on the ASA membership form has been ticked. Denotes those who are not members of GBDSC, and can therefore indicate any level of hearing loss.
A	Less than 55dB in the better ear	Current members of GBDSC, who can attend training events and swim in our National competition: placed against others in same category for medal and records purposes. Will be designated as "Hearing Impaired" on ASA/SASA/WASA database if appropriate box ticked on ASA membership form.
B(S15)	At least 55dB in the better ear	For current members of GBDSC: denotes those who have been or have the immediate potential to be eligible for international competitions (Deaf European, World, and Deaflympics) and who may have in consequence received an ICSD (international) registration number. In GBDSC competitions, will swim as Category B. Will show on ASA/SASA/WASA database as Disability Class 15 and Disability status ICSD (will not show ICSD number)

Deaf for the purposes of competitive swimming is defined as a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels (dB) pure tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969). For those who satisfy these criteria, a Category of S15 (see table above) will be granted to current members of the Great Britain Deaf Swimming Club. Please seek advice from GBDSC if unsure.

The Great Britain Deaf Swimming Club (GBDSC) is the official and only organisation that is authorised to grant S15 status to a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer in Great Britain. United Kingdom Deaf Sport (UKDS), the governing body responsible for Deaf Sport in Great Britain will refer all applicants for S15 status to GBDSC for authorisation. The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), the governing body for all swimming in England, SASA in Scotland and WASA in Wales also acknowledge GBDSC as the authority on the S15 status. The GBDSC will only consider applications from Deaf Swimmers for S15 status who are confirmed as fully paid up members of GBDSC. The S15 status will lapse at the end of each membership year and can only be reauthorised following renewal of GBDSC membership and submission of a recent audiogram confirming that the S15 criteria have been satisfied.

**All submitted audiograms in support of requests for S15 status which is for use in UK competitions only must be of the computer generated type from an NHS Audiology Unit signed and dated by a qualified Audiologist – see below for audiogram requirements for S15/ICSD status.**

GBDSC may exercise discretion and set aside the need for audiograms to be provided annually when satisfied that levels of hearing loss are demonstrably at a reasonable level in excess of the minimum S15 criteria. Any such discretion will be exercised on a without prejudice basis.

All guest swimmers wishing to swim in the annual Deaf Swimming Championships who are not on the list of S15 qualified swimmers must submit with their entry form a copy of their latest Audiogram.

All swimmers wishing to swim in domestic Disability Swimming Events (DSE) must be registered with the ASA Disability Classification Department at Loughborough before their entries will be accepted by the DSE.

This registration can only be carried out by the Membership Secretary of

the GBDSC and the registration can only take place after conclusive evidence of S15 status is produced, in the form of an audiogram.

A list of all S15 qualified swimmers will be kept by the Membership Secretary.

S15 (International Registration) is only required when the swimmer is or is likely to be in the near future selected to represent GB at any International Swimming Competition. The Coach of the GBDSC will recommend the swimmers who may apply for International Registration. **To Register for International Competition an official International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) Audiogram Form has to be fully completed and signed by an audiologist.** This must then be sent to the Membership Secretary of GBDSC who will arrange for it to be forwarded it to the ICSD for the registration of the swimmer and the issue of an International Number.

A list of all ICSD registered swimmers will be kept along with their International Numbers by the Membership Secretary.