



ATHLETES WITHOUT LIMITS



U.S. MEMBER OF VIRTUS INTERNATIONAL

In 2009 Athletes Without Limits started as a nonprofit and the first and only U.S. Member of Virtus. Virtus represents athletes with intellectual impairment (II) throughout the world and in the Paralympic movement. Virtus also hosts high level International competition for II athletes.

At the National level Athletes Without Limits partners with US sports organizations to inform and create inclusion opportunities and events for high-performance athletes with intellectual impairment in mainstream & adaptive sports like the **USTA (Tennis)**, **USRowing**, and the **USGA (Golf)**.

At the International level AWL organizes USA National Team trips to high-level Virtus competitions across 12+ sports including: **Basketball, Cycling, Equestrian, Karate, Judo, Rowing, Skiing, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, and Track & Field.**

VIRTUS ELIGIBILITY FOR U.S. ATHLETES

To ensure fair competition Virtus athletes are required to provide detailed evidence of their impairment – Athletes Without Limits manages this process for U.S. athletes.

Virtus events offer three separate Intellectual Impairment (II) competition groups:

- **Virtus II1 – Intellectual Disability** (IQ 75 or lower) includes Autism with ID)
- **Virtus II2 – Down Syndrome** or similar Additional Impairment
- **Virtus II3 – Autism without Intellectual Disability**

Learn more and apply at: athleteswithoutlimits.org/eligibility

AWL & VIRTUS COMPETITION:

Featured AWL & Virtus Events for **Virtus II1**, **II2** and **II3** athletes include:

- 2024 AWL & U. of Michigan Miller Family Open *MoveUnited* Track Meet
- 2024 AWL & USADSS National Swim Meet in Orlando
- 2024 AWL & USTA Tennis Invitational for II players at the US Open
- 2026 AWL US Team competing at Virtus Regional Games in Peru
- 2027 AWL US Team competing at Virtus Global Games in Egypt

See all events at: athleteswithoutlimits.org/calendar

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC & ADAPTIVE CLASSIFICATION:

Virtus eligibility through AWL is a prerequisite for athletes with Intellectual Impairment pursuing Paralympic Classification and Adaptive categories hosted by many other National Organizations:

- U.S. Paralympic National Classification (II): **Virtus II1 Eligibility** is required for athletes pursuing Adaptive events hosted by Move United, U.S. Para **Track & Field**, U.S. Para **Swimming**, and USA **Table Tennis**– *the pathway to the Paralympic Games!*
- Boston Marathon: **Virtus II1 Eligibility** is required for the T20 Class which offers prize money!
- U.S. Adaptive Open Golf Championships: **Virtus II1 Eligibility** is required for players seeking their WR4GD Pass for *the USGA's prestigious annual adaptive golf tournament.*
- USA Para Karate: **Virtus II1 or II2 Eligibility** is required..
- USRowing Adaptive Categories: **Virtus II1, II2 or II3 Eligibility** is recognized at regattas & indoor.

We help athletes with intellectual impairments reach their highest potential in sport (and life).





A. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (FOR US ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT)

About Virtus Eligibility Groups & Paralympic Classification

Our Athletes Without Limits and Virtus events offer competition to athletes with intellectual impairment in three eligibility groups (Virtus II1, II2 and II3) across 10+ sports.

Paralympics offers one class for athletes with intellectual impairment in three sports (called Class S14/SB14 in Swimming, Class 11 in Table Tennis and Class T20/F20 in Track & Field) open to athletes who meet the Virtus II1 criteria below:

- **Virtus II1-Intellectual Disability (IQ 75 or lower, Significant Adaptive Limitations, Onset before 18)**

Virtus II1 athletes can also compete in Paralympic Swimming S14, Table Tennis Class 11, or Track & Field T20/F20.

- **Virtus II2-Intellectual Disability with Significant Additional Impairment (Tri21 Down Syndrome)**

Virtus II2 athletes can compete as II1 athletes in the Paralympic class for intellectual impairment since they also meet the II1 Criteria. II2 athletes who are entering Paralympic events should include their most recent IQ and Adaptive Behavior Tests along with their Cytogenetic report and AAI Clearance Scan.

- **Virtus II3-Autism with IQ 76 or higher (Sometimes called 'High Functioning Autism')**

Virtus II3 athletes are not eligible for Paralympics, which is only open to athletes with an IQ of 75 or lower. Our AWL and Virtus events welcome II3 athletes and advocate for their inclusion by other event hosts.

National vs. International Eligibility?

Provisional National Level:

- **Developmental Level or Youth (15 and under) competing at U.S. Paralympic and Move United** sanctioned Swim or Track & Field events.
- Note: Only athletes with an IQ of 75 or lower who can provide **Virtus II1** eligibility documentation are eligible for Paralympics.
- **US Rowing** national events open to II1, II2 and II3 athletes.

Full International Level (Most Applicants):

- Athletes who have qualified for Athletes Without Limits National Teams competing at *Virtus Global Games* or *World Championships* need International Level Eligibility.
- Athletes who are pursuing Paralympic Swimming, Table Tennis or Track & Field and require IPC Classification.
- Golfers who are applying for a WR4GD Pass in Golf.

Application Checklist:

- ☐ 1. Complete the **4-page Virtus Application**.
- ☐ 2. Provide a **digital headshot** of the athlete.
- ☐ 3. Provide copy of **Passport or State ID**.
- ☐ 4. Provide **Evidence of Disability** (see list on next page) which includes all the following that apply:
Please send full reports not partial pages.
 - **All applicants should send the latest or most thorough psychological assessment** that includes IQ & Adaptive Behavior Results (e.g. WAIS, WISC, Vineland, ABAS).
 - **Latest school IEP** can be helpful if it contains information relevant to the athlete's diagnosis of Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome or Autism.
 - Athletes with Autism should include original **ASD diagnostic reports/rating scales** if available (ADOS, ASRS, Gilliam, etc.).
 - Athletes with Down syndrome should provide **Cytogenetic Blood Test** confirming DS type (Trisomy21, Mosaic, Translocation etc).
 - Athletes with Down syndrome should provide latest **AAI x-ray** scan report and Dr. signed statement of **AAI clearance** on page 3 of the application. Athletes with Down syndrome in sports with Paralympic opportunities (swimming, track & table tennis, golf) should include their most recent IQ and Adaptive tests for dual eligibility in Virtus II1 & II2.
- ☐ 5. **Application fee (We'll invoice you by email)**
 - For most applicants the (one-time) Virtus Eligibility Application fee is \$175.
 - For youth age 15 and under applying for Move United or Youth Para events the fee is \$75.

How long does eligibility take?

Our national review typically takes 1-3 weeks depending on the information provided as evidence. Priority is given to athletes who are registered for upcoming events.

It can take an additional 5-12 weeks to have Virtus International confirm an athlete's International Level Eligibility. Eligible athletes will be notified by email and added to: athleteswithoutlimits.org/eligibility/masterlist

Where do I submit the application?

Due to file size and security issues do not email your application. When you are ready to apply send an email using our Contact Us form below and we will send you a **secure dropbox link** you can use to upload your application:

<https://www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/about/contact>



B. EVIDENCE REQUIRED^[V.070923]

(FOR US ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT)

Virtus II-1 Intellectual Disability

Required for Paralympic Classification
for Intellectual Impairment

Including events hosted by USATT
U.S. Paralympics or Move United:

- Swimming (Class S14/SB14)
- Table Tennis (Class 11)
- Track & Field (Class T20/F20)

Virtus III is required for the USGA's
U.S. Adaptive Open and other Golf events
that follow Paralympic Classification

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Full-Scale IQ score of 75 or lower;
- Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour;
AND
- Onset before age 22.

*Note: This group includes athletes with **Autism** who also have Intellectual Disability.*

*Athletes with **Down Syndrome** should apply for dual eligibility in Virtus II-1 for Paralympic events and Virtus II-2 for Athletes Without Limits Trips to Virtus events.*

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:*

1. **WAIS, WISC or Stanford Binet IQ Assessment-Psychologist's Report Including Scores Summary**
For National level similar or older assessments may be accepted where eligibility is clear. For International test must be within last 5 years (unless athlete also has Trisomy21 or Translocation DS Genetic report).
2. **Vineland, ABAS, or AAMR Adaptive Behavior-Psychologist's Report including Scores Summary**
*(Should be completed by Parent or Teacher not the 'Self Form')
For National level older assessments may be accepted where eligibility is clear. For International test must be within last 5 years (unless athlete also has Tri21 or Translocation Down syndrome Genetic report).*
3. **Age of Onset:** IQ or other relevant scores or diagnosis before age 22 referenced in a report.

*Two Additional Competition Groups Offere at AWL & Virtus Events
(II2 and II3 are not offered at events that follow Paralympic Classification)*

Virtus II-2 Down Syndrome (or ID w/other significant additional impairment)

Note: Athletes with Down Syndrome may compete in this separate group on Athletes Without Limits US Teams competing at Virtus events — but Paralympic events do not offer as separate II-2 group.

Therefore, to compete in an event that follows Paralympic Classification athletes with Down Syndrome should also apply for Virtus II-1/Paralympic Eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Formal diagnosis of Trisomy 21 or Translocation Down Syndrome.
- For safety athletes must not have symptomatic Atlantoaxial Instability (AAI).

OR

- Intellectual Disability with other significant additional impairment.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:*

1. **Copy of genetic testing** showing a formal diagnosis and type of Down Syndrome (Tri21 or Translocation).
 2. Most recent copy of **AAI exam X-ray results** showing not symptomatic AAI.
 3. **Athlete's Physician must sign Page 3 (AAI)** of the attached application stating athlete is cleared to compete.
- OR
1. All Virtus II-1 IQ and Adaptive Behavior Evidence of Intellectual Disability above **plus**
 2. Medical report describing additional physical or visual impairment (will be confirmed by interview with Eligibility Staff)
 3. Recent Performances Times for consideration.

Virtus II-3 Autism+

(Intended for athletes with Autism
who do not meet Virtus III/Paralympic
Criteria above)

Athletes may compete in this group on Athletes Without Limits US Teams at Virtus events — Paralympics does not offer the II3 competition group.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A formal diagnosis of Autism, ASD or Aspergers Syndrome
- Both the ICD 11 and DSM 5 definition of Autism are accepted by Virtus.
- Intended for athletes with IQ of 76 or higher who do not meet criteria for Virtus II-1 Intellectual Disability above.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:*

1. **Formal diagnosis of Autism or ASD** carried out by a licensed psychologist, with background history and evidence must include accepted diagnostic techniques/assessments such as: **ADOS, ADR-I, CARS, DISCO, GARS, AAA, RIMLAND, ASRS ISAA and/or evidence mapped against ICD 11 or DSM 5 frameworks.**
2. Provide **previous IQ and Adaptive Behavior assessments** to determine if athlete may be eligible for Virtus II-1/Paralympics group.

***Getting New Testing:** If the athlete does not have the exact assessments required for International Eligibility, we've created a [Guide for Psychologists](#) you can give to your psychologist so they can provide the assessments needed.



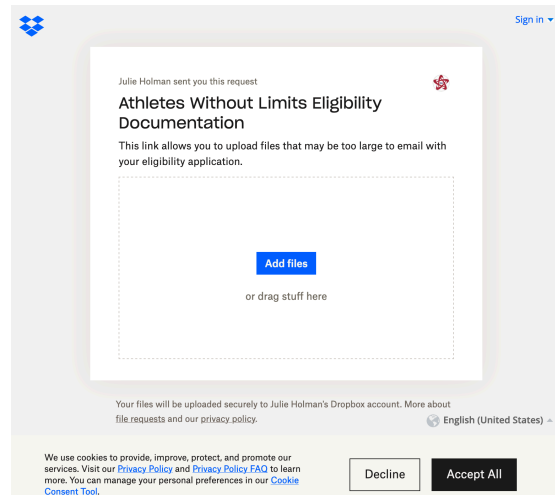
C. HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR FILES (FOR US ATHLETES WITH INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT)

1. GET DROPBOX LINK:

When you are ready to submit your application, send an email using our Contact Us form on our website at: athleteswithoutlimits.org/about/contact

We will reply with a secure dropbox link.

When you click on the link you should see the screen shown right in your browser:



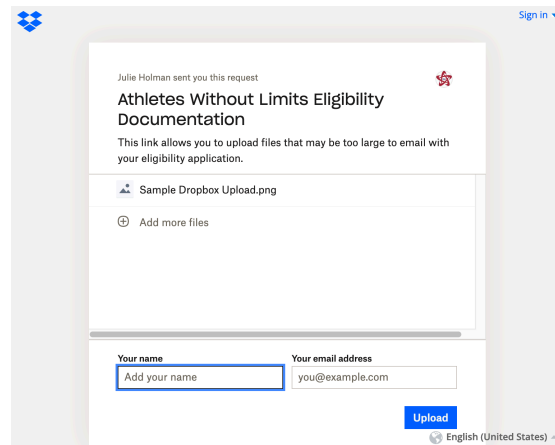
2. SELECT FILES:

Drag or select the files you wish to upload including the Virtus application and any supporting evidence and reports.

Your files should appear in a list with an UPLOAD button as pictured right.

Note: You do not need to have a dropbox account or sign in to upload files, just enter your name and email when prompted.

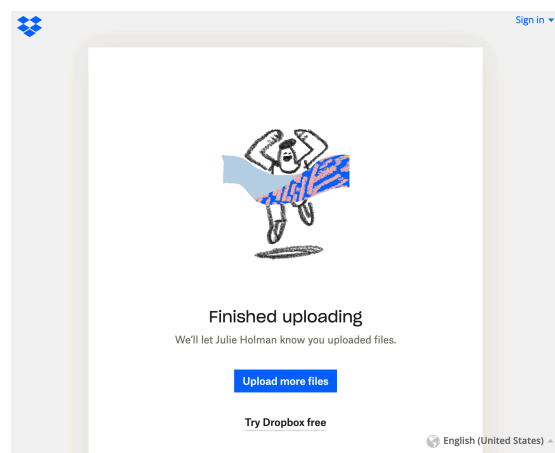
(If you do have a dropbox account and are already signed in you won't need to enter your name and email.)



3. CLICK "UPLOAD"

Make sure you click UPLOAD that you see the "Finished Uploading" message.

When you see the runner crossing the finish line picture below that means we'll get an email that the files have been successfully uploaded.





ATHLETESWITHOUTLIMITS



ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION FORM

(V8 – JAN 2019)

ATHLETE DETAILS - This page to be completed by the athlete's representative

Include a Digital Headshot when you upload your application. Event for which athlete needs eligibility: <input type="text"/> Event Date: <input type="text"/>	Athletes full Last Name: (as stated on Passport)	
	Athletes full First Name: (as stated on Passport)	
	Nationality: (as stated on Passport)	
	Date of Birth:	<i>e.g. January 1, 2000</i>
	Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
	Team Name:	

Athlete Address:			
Phone Number:		Email Address:	

If the athlete is under 18 years of age, or without legal competency to sign:

Parent/Guardian Name:		Relationship:	
Parent/Guardian Address:			
Phone Number:		Email Address:	

Eligibility Level: <i>(leave blank if unsure)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional National Level (for US Rowing and some Developmental U.S Events only) <input type="checkbox"/> Full International Level	
Eligibility Group: <i>(leave blank if unsure)</i> Note for Golf Applicants: The US Adaptive Open and USPGA Golf Championships follow Paralympic rules so are only open to players who meet Virtus II1 criteria w/Full International Level eligibility confirmed.	Eligibility Groups Offered at Virtus Events: <input type="checkbox"/> Virtus II-1: Intellectual Disability (IQ 75 or lower) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtus II-2: Intellectual Disability w/Tri21 or Translocation Down Syndrome (or similar additional impairment) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtus II-3: Autism+ (ASD Diagnosis with IQ 76 or higher)	Paralympic Classification: <input type="checkbox"/> (Virtus II-1) Para Swimming S14 Class <input type="checkbox"/> (Virtus II-1) Para Track & Field T20/F20 <input type="checkbox"/> (Virtus II-1) Para Table Tennis Class 11 <i>Athletes seeking Paralympic Classification must have an IQ of 75 or lower and provide all Virtus II-1 evidence of Intellectual Disability.</i>
Sport(s) in which the athlete will compete:	1 2	

ATHLETES NAME:

DECLARATIONS & PERMISSIONS - This page to be completed by the athlete & athlete's representative

All athletes must sign or place their mark. If the athlete is under 18, or if the athlete is without legal competency to sign themselves, the second part should also be signed by the athlete's parent or legal guardian.

PRIVACY: As a nonprofit advocating for athletes with intellectual impairment privacy is a top priority. Eligibility applications are reviewed by AWL Eligibility Staff which includes licensed psychologists trained in sport eligibility. Private medical information is not shared with other staff, volunteers or coaches without permission and best practices in data protection and security are practiced in accordance with our privacy policy at: www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/about/privacy. Similarly applications submitted to Virtus: World Intellectual Impairment Sport for endorsement are subject to the Virtus Data & Information Handling policy at: www.virtus.sport/privacy-policy.

ATHLETE DECLARATION (All athletes must complete, by ✓ each box and signing below)

By signing this declaration I am saying that:

- a) I understand and comply with the eligibility criteria to compete as an athlete with intellectual impairment. ☐
- b) I confirm that I shall comply with all Virtus policies and procedures including, but not limited to all of the provisions of the Anti-Doping Policy, all amendments to the Anti-Doping Rules and all International Standards as issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency and permanently published on its website. I acknowledge that National Federations, Virtus and National Anti-Doping Organisations have jurisdiction to impose sanctions as provided in the Anti-Doping Rules. ☐
- c) I give AWL & Virtus permission to hold information electronically and to use information in accordance with their Privacy Policy. I agree that in order to maintain the principles of fair eligibility and classification, Virtus may retain relevant and essential information indefinitely. ☐
- d) I understand and agree to uphold the principles of the Virtus Code of Ethics and the spirit of fair play. ☐
- e) I agree to AWL & Virtus using photographs and images of me for the purposes of publicity in print, electronic and other media, and can withdraw this consent at any time by writing to the Secretariat. ☐
- f) I agree that data I have provided can be used for research purposes, as set out under the Virtus research code, and this data will not identify me individually and be managed under the Virtus Privacy Policy. ☐
- g) I give Virtus permission to use this information to decide whether I am a person with intellectual impairment for eligibility and sports classification and to share this information with relevant organisations including, but not limited to, the IPC and International Federations. ☐
- h) I understand the risks associated with competition and that I am responsible for my actions at all times. ☐
- i) As far as I know, all the information in my application is true and accurate. ☐
- j) I understand what the information in this form is being used for or have had this explained to me. ☐

(Athlete signature or identifying mark)

(Date)

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (if the athlete is Under 18, or without legal capacity to give consent)

By signing this declaration I am saying that the athlete named above is under 18 years, or without legal capacity to sign on their own behalf. I understand the above declarations and have the legal right to sign on behalf of this person.

(Signature + print name)

(Date)

Relationship to Athlete

ATHLETES NAME:

APPENDIX 1 - ATLANTOAXIAL INSTABILITY (AAI) –
This page to be completed by the athletes doctor/physician

IMPORTANT : THIS PAGE IS ONLY REQUIRED FOR ATHLETES WITH DOWN SYNDROME

To be completed by a qualified medical practitioner. Please place a ✓ in the appropriate box:

	example	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the athlete have a known diagnosis of symptomatic AAI?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the person show evidence of progressive Myopathy?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the person have poor head/neck muscular control?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the person's neck flexion allow the chin to rest on their chest?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of neck x-ray reports attached (mandatory)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	

STATEMENT: In my professional opinion I confirm the athlete is free from symptomatic AAI and is safe to participate in competitive sport I confirm the athlete and their family/guardians have been made aware of the risk and that Virtus: World Intellectual Impairment Sport accepts no responsibility in the event of injury arising from AAI

I confirm that I am a physician/doctor qualified in the assessment and diagnosis of AAI.

Practitioners Name	-----	
Qualification/Profession		Official Stamp:
Address		
Phone Number	+ / Country code/number	
Email Address		
Signature		
Date		

ATHLETES NAME:

ATHLETES WITHOUT LIMITS: EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR US ATHLETES

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:

Relation:

Phone(s):

IMPORTANT ALLERGIES & MEDICAL NOTES IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

MEDICATIONS

List Name and Dose so we can make sure none require additional TUE paperwork for competition:

☐ No Medications

1. Medication Name, Dose & Frequency:

2. Medication Name, Dose & Frequency:

3. Medication Name, Dose & Frequency:

4. Medication Name, Dose & Frequency:

5. Medication Name, Dose & Frequency:

ATHLETES WITHOUT LIMITS: RELEASE FORMS FOR US ATHLETES

LIABILITY RELEASE (REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION):

(Name) would like to travel with and/or participate in group trips or programs or events hosted by or associated with Athletes Without Limits. I acknowledge the risks and potential for risks of travel and participating in various sports. However, I feel that the possible benefits to myself/my son/my daughter/my ward are greater than the risk assumed. I hereby intend to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs and assigns, executors or administrators, waive and release forever all claims for damages against Athletes Without Limits, its Board of Directors, Coaches, Aids, Volunteers and/or Employees for any and all injuries and/or losses I/my son/my daughter/ my ward may sustain while traveling with Athletes Without Limits or while participating in, planning, or attending sporting, training and other events as part of Athletes Without Limits programming.

Athlete Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian 1 Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian 2 Signature:

Date:

PHOTO/FILM/BIO RELEASE (OPTIONAL):

I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Athletes Without Limits (and its media partners) of any and all photographs and other audiovisual materials (including film) taken of me/my son/my daughter/my ward for promotional, educational fundraising and any other use for the benefit of Athletes Without Limits and its mission and programs. Examples include an athlete photo and bio that will appear on athleteswithoutlimits.org website, press releases, Facebook and Twitter updates, fundraising materials, etc.

Athlete Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian 1 Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian 2 Signature:

Date: