



For para-athletes with
an intellectual disability



Salomons

BPS Annual Conference London 2012



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**ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION OF
ELITE ATHLETES WITH
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES(ID) FOR
THE PARALYMPICS:
THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGY**

History



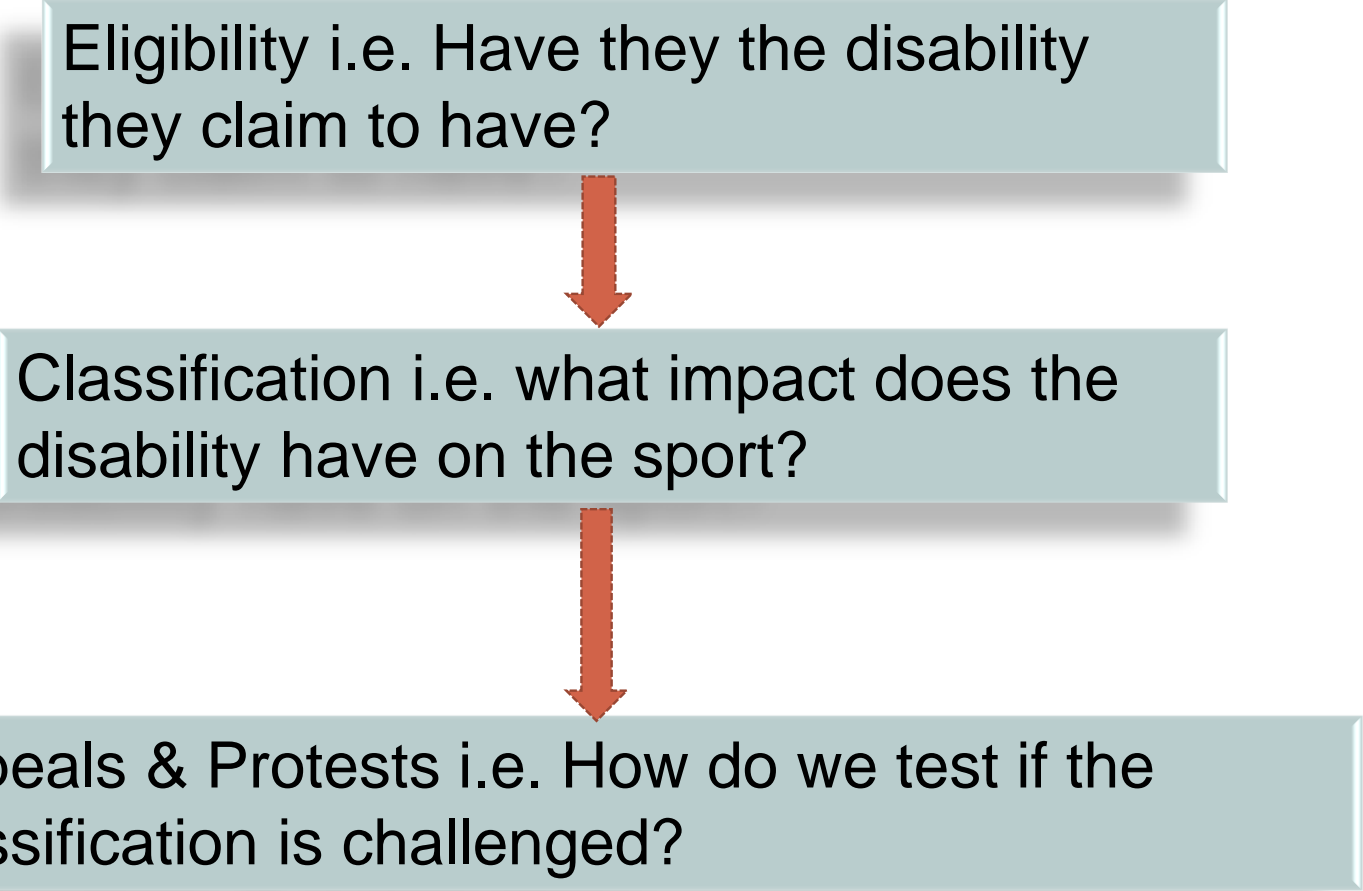
- Sydney Paralympics 2000 – Spanish 10/12 basket ball team found to be cheating due to not having an ID



- ID athletes disallowed from competing until can provide evidence that can comply with International Paralympic Committee (IPC) governance

IPC Rules and Procedures

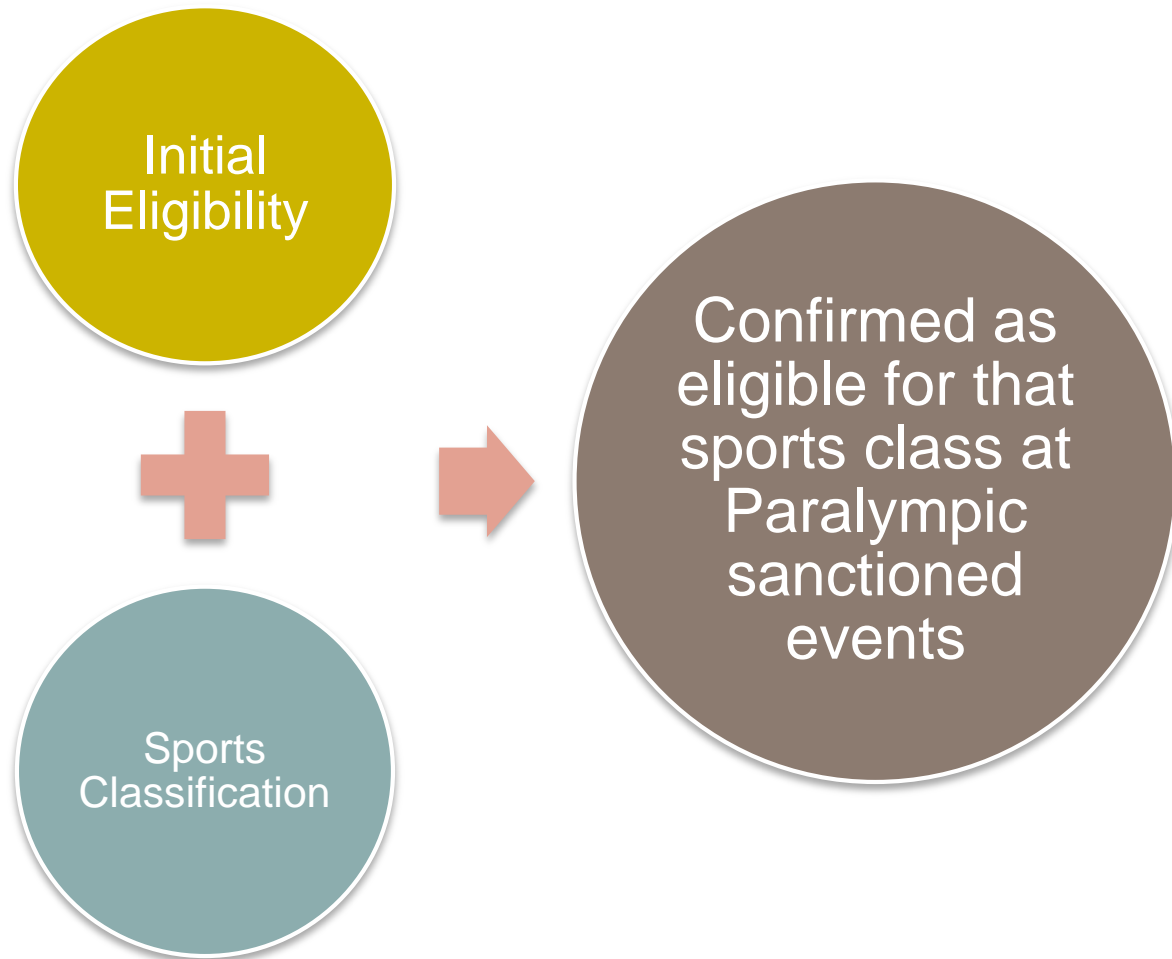
Eligibility i.e. Have they the disability they claim to have?



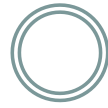
Classification i.e. what impact does the disability have on the sport?

Appeals & Protests i.e. How do we test if the classification is challenged?

What does 'classification' mean for athletes with ID in the Paralympics?



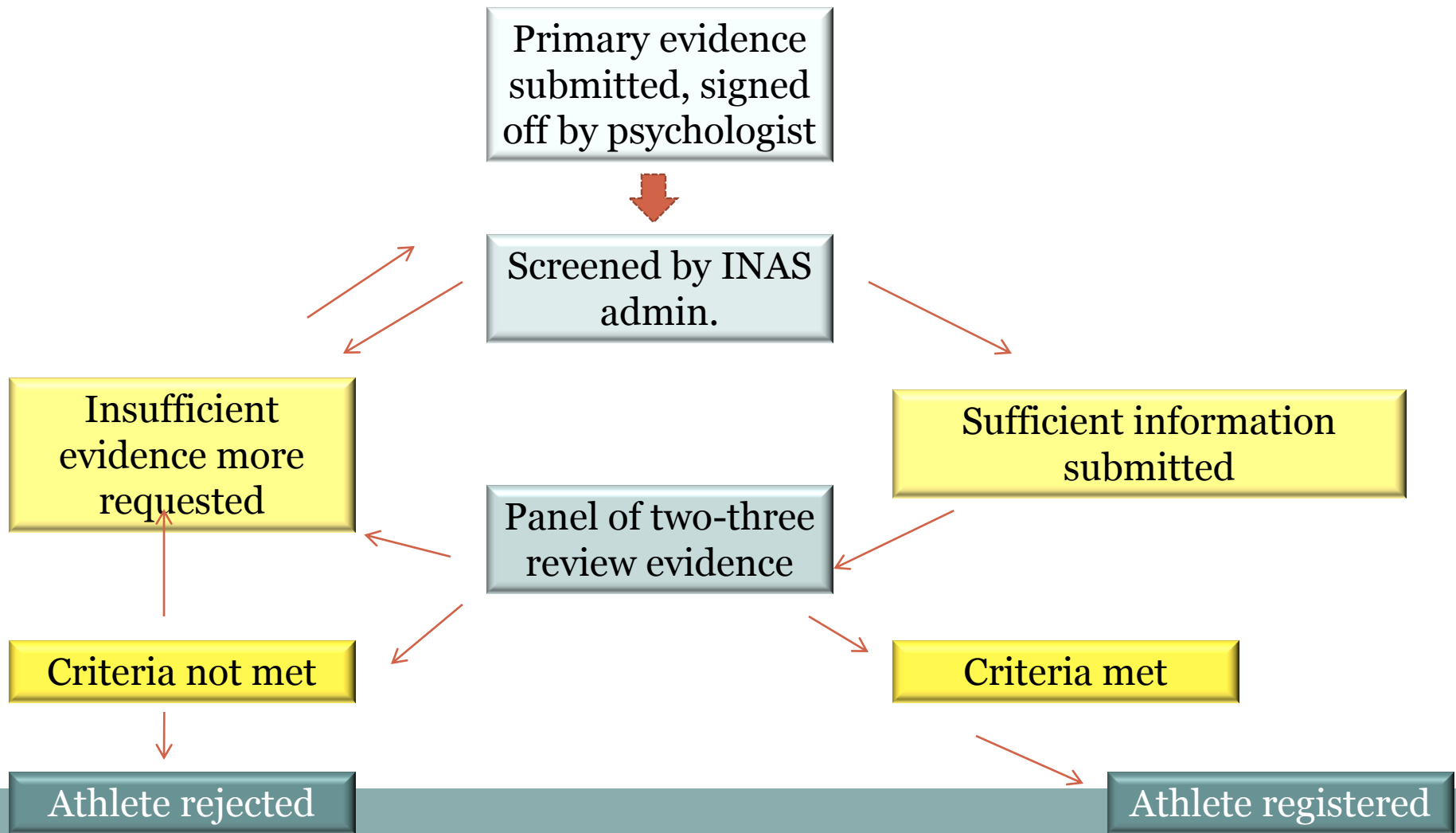
Primary eligibility



- **Adopt a universally accepted definition of ID**
 - Disability evident before age 18
 - IQ below 75
 - Significant impairment of adaptive behaviour

- **Adopt a ‘gold standard’ approach to assessment**
 - International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID)
 - Make appropriate adaptations based on available evidence to treat nations fairly

INAS Registration Procedure



Part 2: Classification



- Does having an intellectual disability impact on the ability to perform the sport and in what way?

LONDON 2012



- IPC General Assembly Oct 2009 agreed that ID athletes could re-join for London 2012
- 3 sports
 - Athletics
 - ✦ 1500m
 - ✦ Shot
 - ✦ Long jump
 - Table tennis
 - Swimming 100m

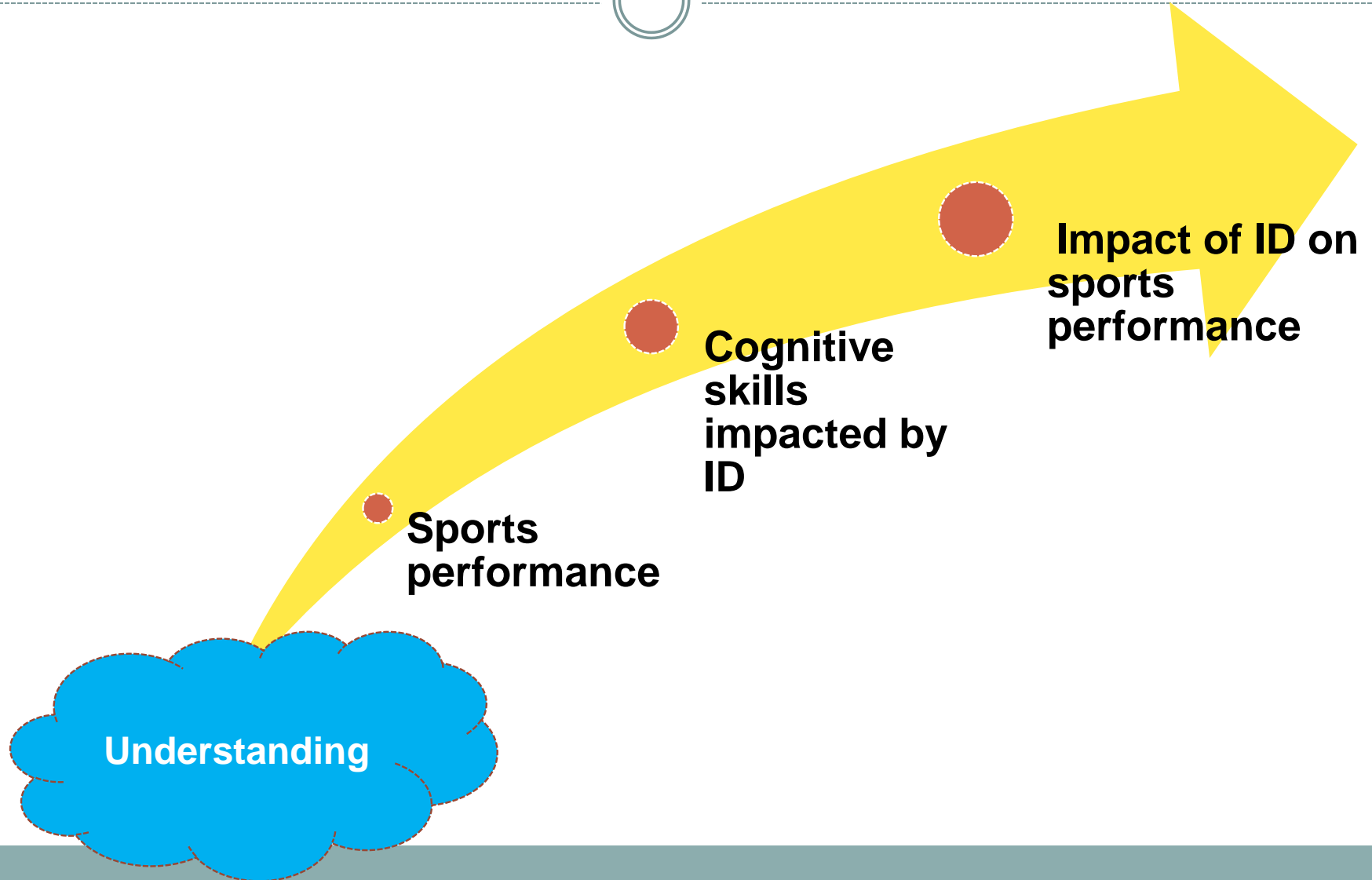


Research Questions

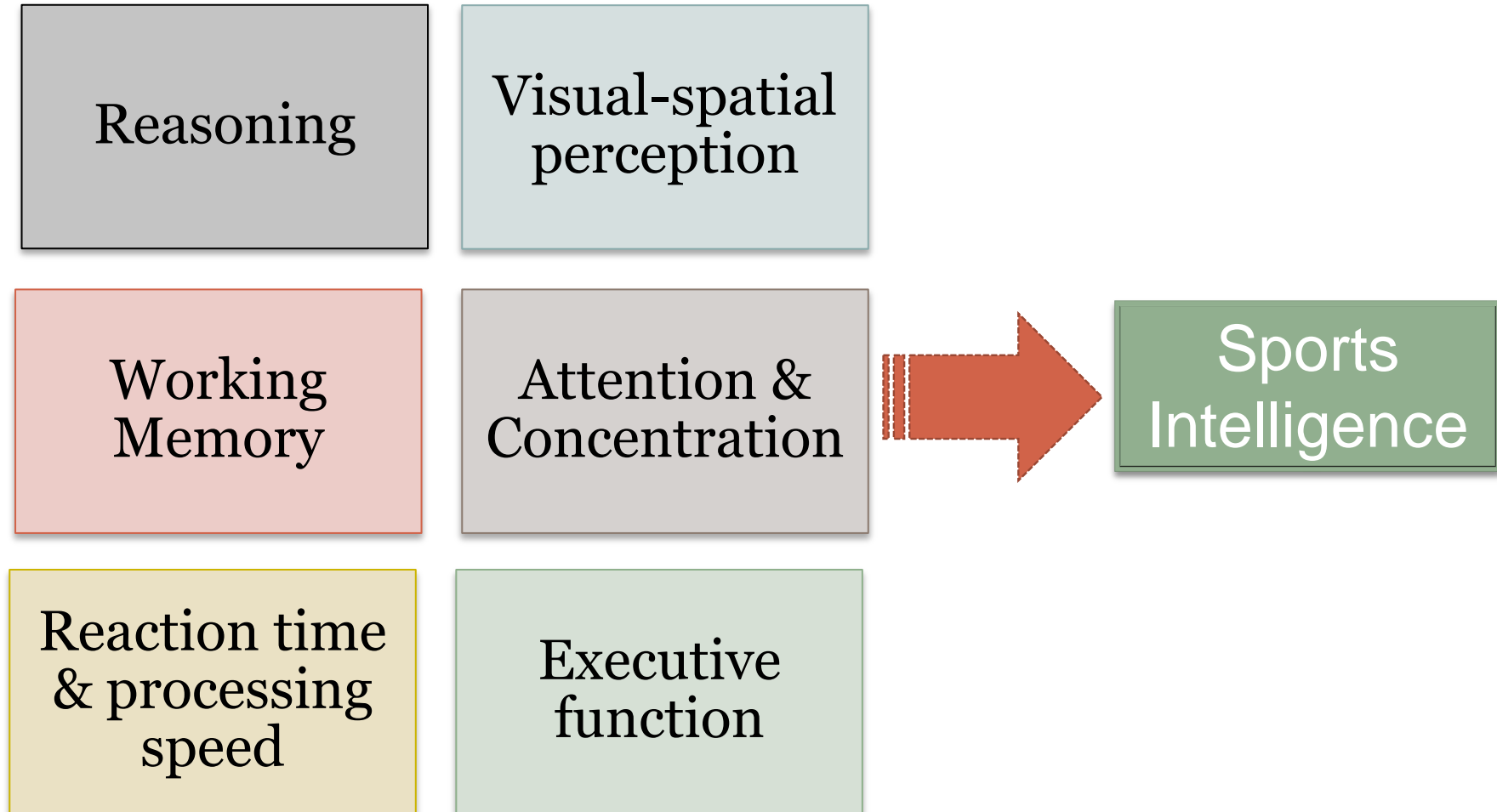


1. Does ID impair sports performance?
2. If so how, and in what way for different sports?
3. So how do classify ID athletes?

Starting from a conceptual model



Key components of intellectual functioning that likely have sport specific applications include:



Developing the classification system



G - An assessment generic of sport intelligence

S - A sports specific assessment of sport intelligence

G

The Sport Cognition Test Battery



- Collection of proven psychometric tests chosen to test each area
- Able to be administered largely non-verbally
- Quick to administer
- Largely touch screen computer, with some 'table top' tests
- Easy and quick to score



S - Sport specific assessment

Two components

1. Observation in competition – video analysis of relative stroking speed, mid-pool. ID athletes have relative low stroke speeds compared to non-disabled athletes
2. TSAL-Q – a questionnaire based inventory of training and experience



Sports intelligence tests – Bandwidth model



- Statistical analysis of the results of the tests are used to create a profile of the athlete
- A standardised profile is also taken for non-disabled athletes
- The two profiles will then be compared and the parameters by which to identify an ID athlete will be agreed on a sport by sport basis

Bandwidth model



Non – disabled sample

Tests

1

2

3

4

5

6

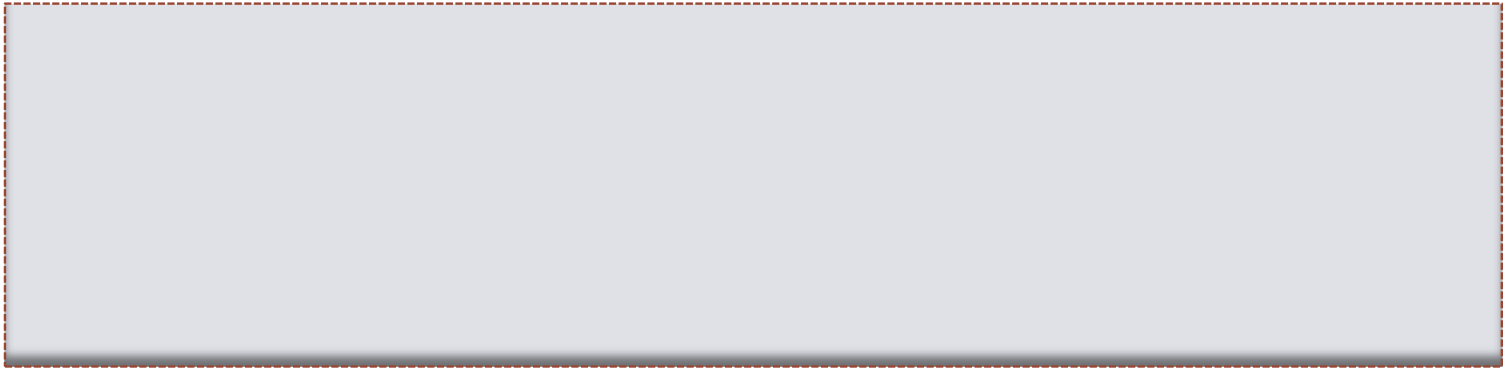
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High
scores



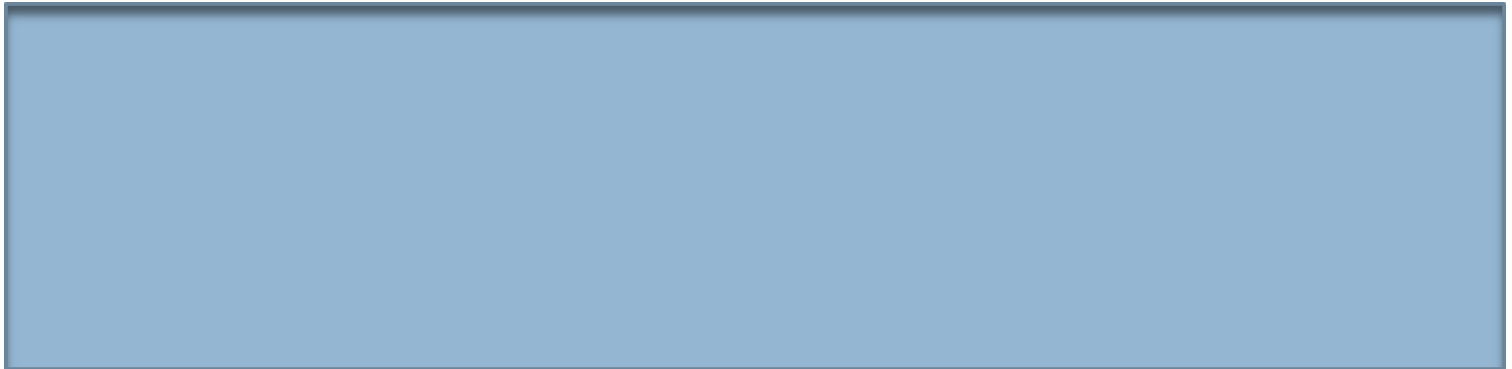
Low
scores



High
scores



Low
scores



Disabled Sample

Bandwidth model



Non – disabled sample

Tests

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High scores

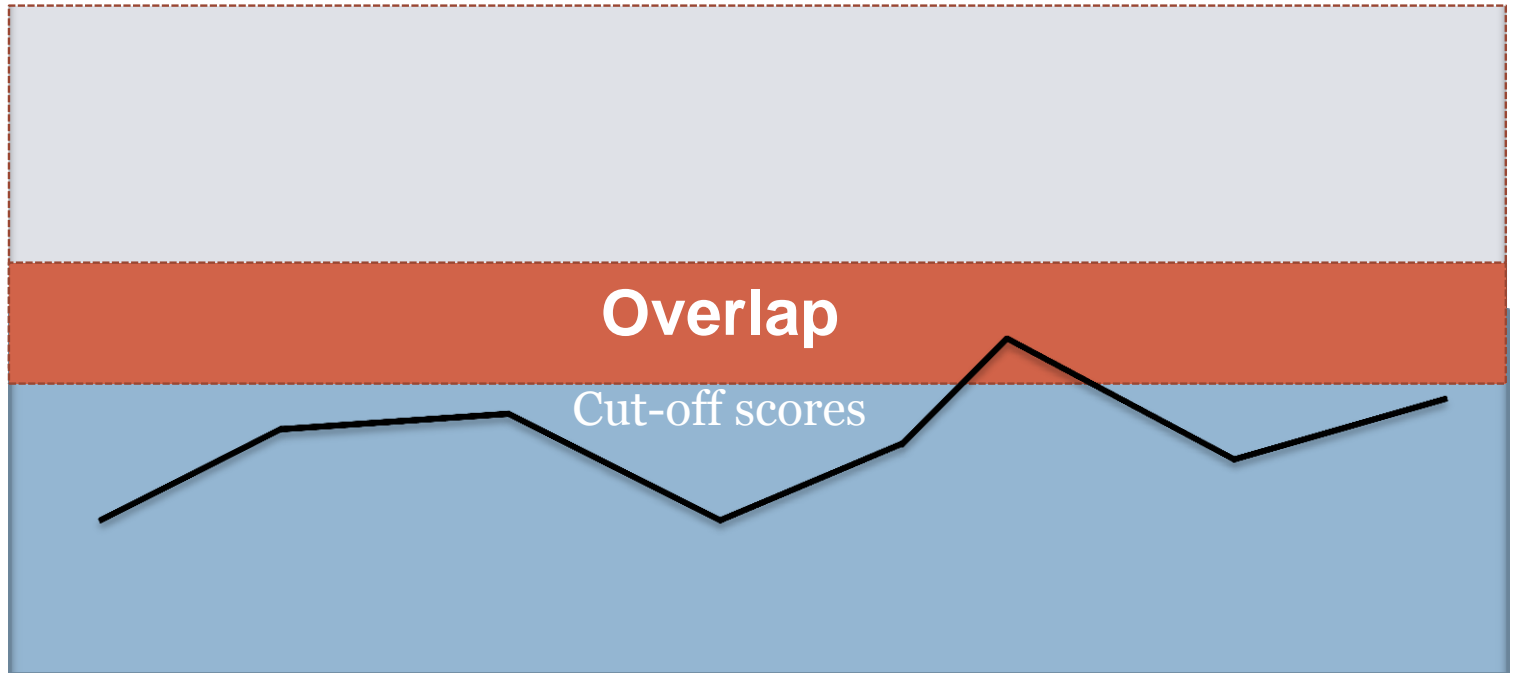


Low scores

High scores



Low scores



Disabled Sample

Swimming



COMPONENT	Tests	Task	Scoring	Cut -off Score
Memory and Learning	Corsi (memory capacity)	To remember a sequence of blocks and to repeat the sequence in the same order	Average length of a sequence	6.69
Executive Functioning	Tower of London (executive functioning)	To copy the frame structure by moving balls in the least number of moves possible	Number of items solved correctly	12.43
Visual Perception & Fluid	Block Design (visual spatial ability)	To copy patterns with 3D white/red cubes	Raw total performance score	58.31

What next?



- Lots more to do
- Other sports, basket ball, skiing, football
- Funding
- However, good developments and we will see ID athletes compete in London this summer
- Questions?

Thank you for listening