



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL has been a part of the Paralympic Games since 1960. Though originally played only by men with spinal cord injuries, now both men's and women's teams throughout the world, with a variety of disabilities, compete in the sport.

BASIC RULES

Every team is comprised of five players and seven substitutes. Many of the same rules from its able-bodied counterpart apply in the wheelchair game. While plays and tactics are similar, special rules, such as those to accommodate dribbling from a wheelchair, are also in place.

A wheelchair basketball player takes one or two pushes while the ball is either resting on his or her lap or held in his or her hand, followed by dribbling the ball, and this sequence may be repeated as often as the player wishes.

The court size and basket height remain the same as able-bodied basketball. Athletes in the sport are grouped by demonstrated playing ability, rather than strictly by medical classification.

ATHLETE CLASSIFICATIONS

In wheelchair basketball, players are classified on a point system from one to 4.5. The higher the player's classification on the court, the greater the player's functional ability. At any one time, a team may have a sum of 14 or less for player classifications on the court.

EQUIPMENT

Wheelchair basketball sport chairs, basketballs and a basketball are some of the items needed for the sport. In addition, a basketball court and hoop are also required.

GETTING STARTED

We encourage you to start by connecting with a local adaptive sports organization that offers wheelchair basketball or getting involved with a local wheelchair basketball team. To find a list of teams in your area, please visit <https://www.nwba.org/findateam>.

CLASSIFICATION

Wheelchair basketball classification is the grouping of players into categories (classes) based on the player's physical capacity to execute fundamental basketball movements, e.g. pushing the wheelchair, dribbling, shooting, passing, catching, rebounding and reacting to contact. The purpose of player classification in wheelchair basketball is to ensure that all eligible players have an equal right and opportunity to be an integral member of a team.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nwba.org>.

PARALYMPIC ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

- Ataxia, Athetosis and Hypertonia
- Impaired Muscle Power
- Impaired Passive Range of Movement
- Limb Deficiency
- Leg Length Difference

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL LEAGUES

- Junior Division—Prep
- Junior Division—Varsity
- Division I
- Division II
- Division III
- Women's
- Intercollegiate Men
- Intercollegiate Women

GAME LENGTH

The match consists of four periods of ten minutes. If the score is tied at the end of playing time for the fourth period, the match will be continued with an extra period of five minutes or with as many periods of five minutes as are necessary to break the tie. Variances in game length will occur depending on the NWBA league and level of play.

COLLEGIATE RESOURCES

Many Para athletes are engaging in collegiate wheelchair programs. For more information on these schools, please visit <https://www.nwba.org/juniorstocollege>.