

WHEELCHAIR SOFTBALL

INTRODUCTION

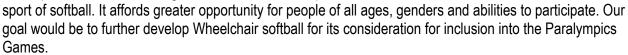
SOFTBALL DIVISION

HISTORY

Though the first person to play wheelchair softball has not been documented the sport itself hasover 30 years of history. The first team was formed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota—the Sioux Wheelers in 1970, then in 1976 the National Wheelchair Softball Association (NWSA) formed as the governing body for the sport in the United States. The sport has grown by leaps and bounds with hundreds of teams throughout the United States and programs forming around the world.

OBJECTIVES

The WBSC continues to break ground in the development of the sport world-wide. Along with the WBSC's equipment program development includes seeking new methods and disciplines to the





RULES AND REGULATIONS

For International Competition: NWSA regulations with International Standards.

 Wheelchair softball should be played under the rule book set forth by the International Softball Federation.

EQUIPMENT

- It is recommended that a 16" ball be utilized.
- All participant must be in a manual wheelchair with foot platforms.

FIELD

- Smooth Surface no grass or soft dirt.
- Indoor Arena could be used (Gym, Warehouse, parking lot).
- Dimensions: minimum 150ft maximum 220ft (foul lines 150ft and 180-220 ft to straight center).
- Base Paths The official diamond shall have 50ft between all bases and 70ft, 8.5 inches from home to 2nd.
- Bases are made up of a 4ft circle (semi-circle for 1st & 3rd) painted white. NOTE: at 1st base only , the base is extended into foul territory. The
 - extension shall be 24 inches deep and 24 inches wide beginning at the 50 ft mark, painted white. This extension may be used by the base runner only as an extended tag area for 1st base.
- Player is considered touching the base when one or more of the wheels are in the circle.
- Pitching Rubber—should extended perpendicularly 1ft on either side of the diagonal from home to 2nd base and shall be located 28ft from home base.



OFFENCE

The base runner must be seated in their wheelchair and my tag or make contact with the base with



either one or more wheels, or may tag the base with their hand. If a runner is knocked out of his/her chair, he/she may proceed to the previous or next base by any means other than hopping walking or running and make contact with the base with any part of his/her body. A base runner may not place lower extremity (waist down) on the ground or someone else's chair to stop his/her chair. If he/she does, the play is dead and will result in a delay dead ball situation.

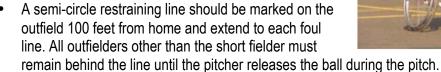
- The hitter cannot have a lower extremity in contact with the ground when hitting. If he/she does, the
 ball is dead and the batter is out, and all base runners return to the last base achieved before the
 illegal at-bat
- Extra Player is not legal in wheelchair softball.

DEFENSE

• No fielder may advance toward or play the ball with any lower extremity in contact with the ground. The fielder must return to their chair and then advance to the ball. A fielder cannot leave their chair to

gain any competitive advantage. Violations results in a minimum of one base advancement, normally two.

 A restraining line should be marked 12 feet from the bases and parallel to the baselines, which run from 1st to 2nd and from 2ndto 3rd. All four infields must have at least one wheel on or behind the line until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Violations result in the hitter being awarded a walk.





- All teams are required to have a quadriplegic on their team in active play. This means that when the
 team is on defense, they must have a quad playing one of those positions. Failure to have a quad take
 the field will require the team to play a fielder short (i.e., 9 rather than 10 players). When the team is
 hitting there must be a quad in the batting lineup and bat in the same position throughout the game.
 Failure to have a quad hit in that position will be an automatic out.
- A team must have the required 10 players, including one or more quads, to start the game.
- The teams are balanced by the following point system: Quad (any) = 1 point Class I = 1 point Class II
 2 points Class III = 3 points
 - a. At no time in a game shall a team have players participating with a total value of points greater than 22.
 - b. The coach,inplacinghis/herteam'srosterintheofficialscorebookbeforeeachgame, shall place a roman numeral prominently and in a common line between the player's disability classification.
- Theofficialscorershallberesponsibleforseeingthatpersonnelonthefieldforeither team at any given time, does not exceed the above balance rule. This will only have to be checked at the beginning of the

game and at the time of substitutions. No checking of the total value point will be necessary if I substitutes for a I, II, or II: or if a II substitutes for a II or III. It will only be necessary if a III substitutes for a II or a I, or if a II substitutes for a I.

- The player classified as a quad may alter their bat to improve the grip. The altered bat must be approved by the head umpire for safety concerns (no sharp or pointed edges, etc.).
- The player classified as a quad may wear a glove on either or both hands regardless of position (including pitcher).
- The "Chop hit" is allowed.
- Quads can bunt, but must inform he umpire before first at bat of quad status during any given game.



