

Wheelchair Curling Information Sheet

About the Sport

Wheelchair Curling made its debut at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. The sport is open to male and female athletes with a physical impairment in the lower part of the body.

There are two disciplines: Wheelchair Mixed Doubles with teams of one female and one male player; and Wheelchair Teams with four players where both genders must be represented on the ice at all times during a game. Wheelchair Curling is governed by and played according to the Rules of Curling as set by World Curling (WC) where stones are delivered from a stationary wheelchair and there is no sweeping of stones.

Games consist of eight ends with an extra end when scores are tied to determine the winner. For Wheelchair Mixed Doubles, each team delivers five stones each end whereas for Wheelchair Teams, each player delivers two stones. An end is complete once all stones have been thrown with the winning team having the stone closest to the centre of the house. A point is scored for each stone closer to the centre than any of the opposite team's stones.

Who can compete?

Wheelchair Curling is open to athletes with a physical impairment that affects at least one of their legs. Athletes are required to be assessed by a classifier they meet the minimum impairment criteria according to the World Curling Classification Rules.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Impaired Muscle Power	Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or other spinal condition.	Leg: Loss of strength in the hip, knee and ankle that prevents the athlete from being able to walk more than just a few steps.
Impaired Passive Range of Motion	Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.	Joint movement restriction in the hip, knee and ankle that prevents the athlete from being able to walk more than a few steps.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Limb Deficiency	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.	One Leg: Complete absence of one leg <u>OR</u> Two legs: Loss of both legs above the ankle. Combination of limb loss and strength loss may also be eligible
Co-ordination impairments: Hypertonia, Motor Ataxia, Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia and chorea)	Impairments from neurological conditions such as acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis that affect co-ordination and smoothness of movement and balance.	Co-ordination or movement difficulties in the legs that prevents the athlete from being able to walk more than just a few steps.

Wheelchair Curling Sport Classes

In Wheelchair Curling, there is only one sport class. WC=Wheelchair Curling.

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
Athletes with a Physical Impairment	
Eligible (WC-E)	Meets the minimum impairment for the sport.
Not Eligible (WC-NE)	Player does not meet the minimum criteria for the Para-sport classes, but may still be able to compete in non Para sporting opportunities. Contact Curling Australia for more information.

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

[Curling Australia](http://www.curling.org.au)

W: www.curling.org.au

E: secretary@curling.org.au

Note: The classification information provided is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers can provide a formal classification in accordance with the rules of the sport.