



OHSAA WHEELCHAIR DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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STATE SUPPORT

The following organizations and personnel are USA Paralympic Sports Programs in Ohio. Coaches may find these people and their organizations invaluable in helping their athletes.

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Additionally, there are several organizations in neighboring states which may be more geographically located to your school. For a complete listing of USA Paralympic approved programs, please see the following website:

**[http://usparalympics.org/
community-programs/paralympic-
sport-clubs/current-clubs](http://usparalympics.org/community-programs/paralympic-sport-clubs/current-clubs)**

WHEELCHAIR DIVISION FAQ'S

Who is eligible to compete in the Wheelchair Division?

- * All athletes in grades 9-12 who meet the Eligibility standards (see Appendix A)
- * Each athlete's permanent, physical disability must be verified by a licensed physician and must be maintained by the designated administrator of the athlete's high school. (See App B)
- * Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements and entry deadlines listed within this newsletter and posted on the OHSAA State Championship information page (www.oatccc.com)

How does an athlete in a wheelchair register for their high school track & field team?

- * The athlete must register with their school following the same procedures established for able-bodied athletes competing in track & field.

Where can wheelchair athletes compete?

- * Wheelchair events can be competed at any OHSAA sanctioned meet. Meet directors will be encouraged to add these events. Coaches should always call ahead to confirm the events being competed. Coaches can also help by asking meet organizers ahead of time to please add an event if they have not placed one on the program.
- * Results from meets held outside of Ohio (i.e., Penn Relays) are sometimes accepted as qualifying marks provided the times in races were FAT and permission was granted prior to the meet. The athlete, however, had to compete as a member of their school's track & field team and in their high school's uniform. National Team results where the athlete was competing for the USA will be the only exception to this rule.

Can wheelchair athletes compete against able-bodied athletes in the same race?

- * In the 100M, 400M, and 800M—no.
- * If the wheelchair athlete is the only competitor in the race, the athlete will compete against the clock.
- * Boys and girls heats may be combined if the number of lanes permit. Times and distances should be separated at the conclusion of the race to determine places for each gender.

Is this true for Shot Put also?

- * No—wheelchair athletes may be flighted with able-bodied athletes for the Shot Put.

Can athletes receive assistance from coaches or other personnel?

- * In the 100M, 400M, and 800M—no. No motorized chairs are permitted. Athletes may only propel themselves forward through their own pushing of the wheels or hand rims.
- * In the Shot Put, a coach (only) may assist the athlete in getting to the competitive area and may also assist the athlete in entering (and leaving) the circle.
- * Also in the Shot Put—the school does not have to provide tie-down straps for throwing athletes. A coach (only) may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement.

Are the uniform rules in place for wheelchair athletes?

- * All uniform rules are in effect just as with able-bodied athletes, however—there are some exceptions highlighted in the *Uniform Rules* section of this newsletter. These exceptions need to be approved in writing by the OHSAA and presented to meet officials as part of the entry process.

Who is responsible for the athlete's equipment?

- * The athlete.

Can the athlete score points for their team?

- * No. Athletes who compete in the Wheelchair Division will be awarded individual honors, but will not score points for their team.

Can an athlete compete in all four events throughout the course of the day?

- * Yes—if they qualify.