

# Wheelchair basketball: a beginner's guide

Friday, 24 August 2012 - 10:38

LONDON, 24 August - A basic guide to wheelchair basketball and the competition at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

## Teams

- Two teams of five players are on the court at any time. Each roster has seven reserves.
- There is a head coach and, usually, an assistant coach on each team.

## Classification

- Players are classified according to their degree of physical impairment and ability to perform skills specific to the sport of wheelchair basketball: wheeling, dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding and reaction to contact. The higher their classification points score, the more ability they have to play.
- The total classification points score of the five players on court can never be more than 14. The highest classification points score a player can have is 4.5 and the lowest score is 1.0.

## Rules

- Most baskets (also called field goals) scored are worth two points.
- If a team shoots and scores from longer than 6.75 metres (marked by an arc), it is worth three points.
- If teams score from the free throw line (when awarded an uncontested foul shot), it is worth one point. The free throw line is 4.6m from the basket.
- Players will sometimes score even though they are fouled in the act of shooting. If this happens they still get a free throw to add to the points they have already scored.
- Players move the ball around the court by passing or dribbling, and are required to throw or bounce the ball after every two pushes of the wheels on their chairs to avoid being penalised for travelling. There is no double-dribble rule as in basketball.
- Each player is allowed five fouls per game and then is disqualified. Players and coaches can be ejected for misconduct.
- A player has to be replaced after committing five fouls. If a team commit four in a quarter, a foul leads to two free throws.

## Games

- Each game is played in four 10-minute quarters.
- If the scores are level after the fourth quarter, a five-minute overtime period is played, followed by further five-minute periods as necessary.
- There is a 24-second shot clock. Teams must attempt one shot before it expires or lose possession.
- Timeouts are taken during matches for tactical reasons. Each team can take two in the first half and up to three in the second.
- The game is officiated by three referees appointed by the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF).

## Terminology

- Points - Total points or, often, the average of each player per game (ppg).
- Assists - Credited when one player makes a decisive pass to another player that leads to a score (apg).
- Rebounds - When a player collects the ball after a missed shot attempt (rpg).
- Steal - When one player intercepts a pass, or simply takes the ball (legally) from someone else.

## Competition format

- The preliminary (first) round is divided into two groups of six teams for men and two groups of five for women. Everyone plays everyone else. Two points are awarded for a win and one for a defeat in the standings.
- The top four finishers from group A and B advance to the quarterfinals.
- A straight knockout then begins, with the last two remaining teams competing for the gold medal. The losing semifinalists play a bronze medal game. All other placings are determined through classification games.

## Paralympic Games history

- Wheelchair basketball was first played by men at Rome 1960. The USA have won gold on a record five occasions. Canada, Israel and Australia have each won twice. France (1984) and the Netherlands (1992) have won once.
- Women first competed at Tel Aviv 1968. Five different NPCs have won gold medals. Canada have won three titles (1992, 1996, 2000) as have the USA (1988, 2004, 2008). West Germany (1980 and 1984) and Israel (1968 and 1976) are two-time champions. Argentina won in 1972.

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## Wheelchair basketball: a glossary

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LONDON, 24 August - A glossary for wheelchair basketball.

### **airball**

A shot that misses the rim, net and backboard.

### **assist**

A pass to a teammate that leads directly to a basket.

### **backboard**

The rigid rectangular board behind the rim.

### **backcourt**

The half of the court a team is defending.

### **backcourt violation**

On offence, teams have eight seconds to advance the ball over the halfway line.

### **bank shot**

A shot that bounces off the backboard before going through the rim.

### **baseline**

The line defining each end of the court.

### **basketball**

The basketball is an inflated sphere with an outer covering. It is 75-78cm in circumference and weighs 600 to 650 grams. It must be made of leather in official IWBF competition. The women's ball is slightly smaller.

### **basket**

Also known as the goal or hoop, made up of a horizontal and circular metal rim with a net hanging from it. It is mounted 3.05m above floor level.

### **biggest lead**

Highest score differential at any moment of the game. If a team has never led, the value of 'biggest lead' on the statistics is zero.

### **block/blocked shot**

When one player diverts or stops a shot from an opponent with their hand while it is still on an upward trajectory.

### **box out**

To stay between an opposing player and the basket when someone shoots the ball, in search of a rebound.

### **captain**

Leader of the team, elected by the players or appointed by the coach.

### **centre**

A position usually played by the biggest player on the team, who often plays closer to the basket.

### **charging**

Illegal personal contact, with or without the ball, by pushing or moving into an opposing player's wheelchair.

### **commissioner**

A person who supervises the work of table officials, and assists the referee and umpires in the smooth functioning of the game.

### **dead ball**

A ball out of play.

### **defensive rebound**

Taking possession of the ball after a missed shot by an opponent.

### **disqualifying foul**

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...ent or that of the whe...  
...judged by the referees to merit immediate ejection/expulsion from the game - the player(s) must leave the area of  
... this is equivalent to a flagrant foul.

... fouls by two opposing players.

... the basketball by bouncing it with either hand.

... attack on offence after gaining possession of the ball on defence.

**break point**  
point scored from a very quick counter-attack.

**field goal**  
A basket scored from any action on the playing court, worth either two or three points.

**fifth foul**  
A player who has committed five personal and/or technical fouls must leave the game but can continue to sit on the bench.

**floor**  
Playing surface made of wooden parquet. Its dimensions are 28mx15m.

**forward**  
position usually played by players bigger than guards, but more versatile than centres.

**fouls drawn**  
personal fouls committed on a player.

**free throw**  
shot, worth one point, awarded to a player who has been fouled.

**free-throw line**  
the line where a player stands to shoot free throws.

**frontcourt**  
the half of the court where the offensive team attacks the basket.

**full-court press**  
defensive approach on the opposing team that is extended the full length of the court.

**game**  
Basketball is played by two teams of five players each. Each team attempts to score into the opponent's basket and to prevent the other team from getting the ball or scoring. The ball may be passed, thrown, tapped, rolled or dribbled in any direction, subject to restrictions laid down. The game is played in four periods of 10 minutes each (4x10 minutes).

**game lost by default**  
A team shall lose a game by default if, during the game, the number of players of that team on the court is less than two. If, at the time the game is stopped, the team to which the game is awarded is winning, the score at that time shall stand. If the team to which the game is awarded is not winning, the score will be recorded as 2-0 in its favour.

**game lost by forfeit**  
A team shall lose the game by forfeit if:  
1. It refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the Referee.  
2. By its actions, it prevents the game from being played  
3. Fifteen (15) minutes after the starting time, the team is not present or is not able to field five players. The game is awarded to the opponents and the score shall be recorded as 20-0.

**goal average**  
Goal average is calculated by dividing points scored by points received. Goal average will be used to establish classification in the event of a points tie in the standings.

**guard**  
A position usually played by players adept at ball-handling, passing or long-range shooting.

**half court**  
The line across the centre of the court dividing the backcourt and front court.

**holding**

Holding is illegal personal contact with an opponent that interferes with his/her freedom of movement or that of the wheelchair. contact (holding) can occur with any part of the body or the wheelchair.

**injury**

A situation when a player is not capable of immediately continuing the game due to physical injury.

**intentional foul**

A foul judged by the referee to have been committed on purpose.

**jump ball situation, throw-in**

Any situation that would require a jump ball at the beginning of all periods other than the first period or during the game will be as a throw-in by the team who did not have possession.

**jury of appeal**

The official body responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions taken by the technical committee concerning the app of game results and penalties imposed. Decisions by the jury of appeal may not be appealed.

**key**

The area between the free-throw line and the near end line, bordered by two angled lines, in which no offensive player may remain for more than three seconds at a time.

**layup**

A shot by a moving player very close to the basket.

**live ball**

A ball in play.

**lifting foul**

It is an offence for a player to raise themselves up so that they are no longer touching the seat of the chair.

**man-to-man**

A defence in which each player is designated an offensive player to mark.

**offensive foul**

When an offensive player, with or without the ball, makes illegal contact with an opponent. It will be also charged as a turnover if this player.

**offensive rebound**

When a player grabs his/her own or a teammate's missed shot.

**officials**

A referee and two umpires on the court are assisted on the sideline by table officials (a timekeeper, a scorer, an assistant scorer and a 24-second clock operator).

**one point**

A basket scored from a free throw.

**overtime**

Extra period(s) lasting five minutes each after the scores are tied at the end of fourth period. As many five-minute extra periods as required are played until one team emerges the winner.

**period**

A part of the game (four quarters and overtimes).

**personal foul**

A player foul that involves illegal contact with an opposing player, whether the ball is live or dead.

**phase**

This is the progression system in competition. Basketball consists of the following phases:

- preliminary round
- quarterfinals
- semifinals
- finals

**pick**

To block a defensive player while remaining still, enabling a teammate on offence to evade the defender, also known as 'screen' or 'block'.

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### team fouls penalty rule

When the players of a team, in a period of a game (10 minutes), have committed four player fouls (personal and subsequent player personal fouls shall be penalised by two free throws.

### team rebound

A team rebound is charged when:

- The ball goes out of bounds immediately after a missed field goal or free throw attempt and before any player gains control of the ball.
- A foul occurs immediately after a missed field goal or free throw attempt and before any player gains control of the ball.

### team standings

A ranking of the teams according to the result of their game(s).

### team turnover

A team turnover is charged for all eight and 24-second violations.

### technical foul

A deliberate or a repeated infringement of the proper conduct of the game or of the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. Technical fouls by a player are all player fouls, which do not involve contact with an opponent.

### three-point basket

A basket shot from beyond the three-point line at 6.75m.

### three-second rule

While his/her team is in control of the ball, a player shall not remain for more than three consecutive seconds in the restricted area. Infraction of this article is a violation.

### three points

A goal scored from the three-point field goal area.

### tilting

Tilting is an action initiated by a player who, with one or two hands removed from the wheels, lifts one rear wheel with one front castor off the floor while shooting, defending, receiving or trying to intercept a pass, rebounding or taking part in the tap-off. Tilting is legal.

### time played

Cumulated time the player is on the court.

### timekeeper

Operator of the game clock.

### timeout

Timeout of one minute shall be charged to a team under the following provisions: one charged timeout may be granted to each team during each period (exception: fourth period when two timeouts may be granted to each team).

### wheeling

Violation by a player with the ball who pushes the chair three times without either passing, dribbling or shooting.

### turnover

The offensive team loses possession of the ball without attempting either a field goal or a free throw.

### 24-second operator

Operator of the 24 second clock.

### 24-second rule

When a player gains control of a live ball on the court, a shot for goal must be attempted by his team within 24 seconds. Infraction of this article is a violation.

### two-point basket

A goal scored from the two-point field goal area.

### umpire

Referee official (see officials). There are two umpires appointed for each game.

### unsportsmanlike foul

A foul on a player with or without the ball, which in the opinion of the official, was deliberately committed by the player against an opposing player.



## Competition format and rules

As of 24 August 2012

The wheelchair basketball competition at the London 2012 Paralympic Games will be held from Thursday, 30 August to Saturday, 8 September 2012 at the Basketball Arena in the Olympic Park and at North Greenwich Arena in London.

The competition will consist of two medal events: a 12-team tournament for men and a 10-team tournament for women.

A total of 264 athletes - 144 men and 120 women - will take part in the wheelchair basketball competition, with each team limited to a maximum of 12 players.

### Rules

The wheelchair basketball competition will be held in accordance with the:

- IWBF Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules available at [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org)
- The IPC Handbook and Paralympic Charter available at [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)
- The IWBF, working with LOCOG Wheelchair Basketball competition management, will be responsible for the technical control and direction of the competition at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

### Duration

Games will consist of four periods of 10 minutes. If the scores are tied at the end of four quarters, an overtime period of five minutes will be played. If the scores remain tied at the end of this period, additional overtime periods will be played until a winner is determined.

### Competition format

The men's and women's events will consist of a round-robin phase followed by a direct elimination phase.

The men's tournament will begin with two groups of six teams playing in a round-robin format within each group. All teams will play each other once.

The top four teams in each group will qualify for the quarterfinal phase. The bottom two teams from each group will play classification matches to determine the rankings from 9-12.

The winners of the four quarterfinals will progress to the semifinals; the losers will play classification matches to determine the rankings from 5-8. The winners of the semifinals will play in the gold medal match, and the losing semifinal teams in the bronze medal match.

The women's tournament will begin with two groups of five teams playing in a round-robin format within each group. All teams will play each other once.

The top four teams in each group will qualify for the quarterfinal phase. The bottom teams from each group will play each other to determine 9th and 10th places.

The winners of the four quarterfinals will progress to the semifinals; the losers will play classification matches to determine the rankings from 5-8.

The winners of the semifinals will then play in the gold medal match, and the losing semifinal teams in the bronze medal match.

The wheelchair basketball competition will be held at two venues: the Basketball Arena in the Olympic Park, and North Greenwich Arena, close to the River Thames.

The Basketball Arena is one of the largest temporary venues built for an Olympic Games. Located in the northern part of the Olympic Park close to the Velodrome and the BMX Track, the venue will have a gross capacity of 12,000 for the wheelchair basketball competition.

Originally built as part of London's millennium celebrations in 2000, North Greenwich Arena has since been transformed into a major multi-purpose venue, staging concerts, sport and other large events, and will have a gross capacity of 16,500 for the wheelchair basketball competition.

## **Classification**

The purpose of the Paralympic sport classification system is to minimise the impact of impairment on the outcome of competition, so that the athletes who succeed in competition are those with the best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to best effect through hard training and quality coaching.

To achieve this, athletes are grouped into classes according to how much their impairment impacts on their sport-specific performance.

## **Responsibilities of the NPCs**

It is the collective responsibility of each athlete and their NPC, through the chef de mission and the relevant team officials, to be informed about and comply with all classification policies and procedures relating to the London 2012 Paralympic Games and each IPSF's classification rules.

Each NPC is also responsible for ensuring that international classification resulting in a sport class status of 'Review' or 'Confirmed' is obtained for all athletes who are intending to participate in the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

For the first time at a summer Paralympic Games, an online entries system will be used by NPCs to enter their athletes. This system will be pre-populated with sport class and sport class status information from the Classification Master Lists (CMLs) that will be provided by IPSFs and will cover each athlete submitted for accreditation to the Paralympic Games.

The online entries system was to be opened to NPCs on 1 July 2012. NPCs were encouraged to do their utmost to ensure their athletes were classified before 15 June 2012.

The CML will include all available information on the class and class status of all athletes who are intending to compete at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The NPCs are responsible for verifying the classification status of their athletes before their Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) in London, on the basis of the CML published by the relevant IPSF

## **Differences from the Olympic Games**

- In the Olympic basketball tournament, both men's and women's events are contested by 12 teams.
- There are no classification matches at the Olympic Games.
- At the Olympic Games the bottom two teams from each group are ranked from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> after the round-robin phase.
- The losing teams in the quarterfinals are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Changes since the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games**

- There are no classification crossover matches for 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> places in the men's tournament at London 2012.

**Note:** for more information go to the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) website: [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org)



# Competition Schedule

As of WED 29 AUG 2012 at 14:16

Date	Start Time	Estimated Finish Time	Teams	Phase	Game No.	Location
THU 30 AUG	10:45	12:30	USA vs TUR	Men's Preliminaries Group A	1	Basketball Arena
	10:45	12:30	ESP vs ITA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	2	North Greenwich Arena
	13:00	14:45	JPN vs CAN	Men's Preliminaries Group B	3	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	NED vs GBR	Women's Preliminaries Group A	4	North Greenwich Arena
	15:15	17:00	COL vs POL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	5	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	USA vs FRA	Women's Preliminaries Group B	6	North Greenwich Arena
	18:30	20:15	AUS vs BRA	Women's Preliminaries Group A	7	Basketball Arena
	19:00	20:45	GBR vs GER	Men's Preliminaries Group B	8	North Greenwich Arena
	20:45	22:30	AUS vs RSA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	9	Basketball Arena
	21:15	23:00	MEX vs CHN	Women's Preliminaries Group B	10	North Greenwich Arena
FRI 31 AUG	10:45	12:30	GER vs COL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	11	Basketball Arena
	10:45	12:30	POL vs JPN	Men's Preliminaries Group B	12	North Greenwich Arena
	13:00	14:45	GER vs USA	Women's Preliminaries Group B	13	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	GBR vs AUS	Women's Preliminaries Group A	14	North Greenwich Arena
	15:15	17:00	ITA vs USA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	15	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	RSA vs ESP	Men's Preliminaries Group A	16	North Greenwich Arena
	18:30	20:15	TUR vs AUS	Men's Preliminaries Group A	17	Basketball Arena
	19:00	20:45	CAN vs NED	Women's Preliminaries Group A	18	North Greenwich Arena
	20:45	22:30	CHN vs FRA	Women's Preliminaries Group B	19	Basketball Arena
	21:15	23:00	CAN vs GBR	Men's Preliminaries Group B	20	North Greenwich Arena
SAT 1 SEP	10:45	12:30	TUR vs ITA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	21	Basketball Arena
	10:45	12:30	USA vs MEX	Women's Preliminaries Group B	22	North Greenwich Arena
	13:00	14:45	USA vs RSA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	24	North Greenwich Arena
	13:00	14:45	BRA vs GBR	Women's Preliminaries Group A	23	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	JPN vs GER	Men's Preliminaries Group B	25	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	FRA vs GER	Women's Preliminaries Group B	26	North Greenwich Arena
	18:30	20:15	AUS vs CAN	Women's Preliminaries Group A	27	Basketball Arena
	19:00	20:45	GBR vs COL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	28	North Greenwich Arena
	20:45	22:30	AUS vs ESP	Men's Preliminaries Group A	29	Basketball Arena
	21:15	23:00	CAN vs POL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	30	North Greenwich Arena
SUN 2 SEP	10:45	12:30	COL vs JPN	Men's Preliminaries Group B	32	North Greenwich Arena
	10:45	12:30	GER vs CHN	Women's Preliminaries Group B	31	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	RSA vs ITA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	33	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	MEX vs FRA	Women's Preliminaries Group B	34	North Greenwich Arena
	15:15	17:00	GER vs CAN	Men's Preliminaries Group B	35	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	CAN vs BRA	Women's Preliminaries Group A	36	North Greenwich Arena
	18:30	20:15	POL vs GBR	Men's Preliminaries Group B	37	Basketball Arena
	19:00	20:45	AUS vs USA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	38	North Greenwich Arena
	20:45	22:30	ESP vs TUR	Men's Preliminaries Group A	39	Basketball Arena
	21:15	23:00	NED vs AUS	Women's Preliminaries Group A	40	North Greenwich Arena
MON 3 SEP	10:45	12:30	CAN vs COL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	42	North Greenwich Arena
	10:45	12:30	MEX vs GER	Women's Preliminaries Group B	41	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	CHN vs USA	Women's Preliminaries Group B	43	Basketball Arena
	13:00	14:45	GBR vs CAN	Women's Preliminaries Group A	44	North Greenwich Arena
	15:15	17:00	ITA vs AUS	Men's Preliminaries Group A	45	Basketball Arena
	15:15	17:00	JPN vs GBR	Men's Preliminaries Group B	46	North Greenwich Arena
	18:30	20:15	BRA vs NED	Women's Preliminaries Group A	47	Basketball Arena
	19:00	20:45	TUR vs RSA	Men's Preliminaries Group A	48	North Greenwich Arena
	20:45	22:30	GER vs POL	Men's Preliminaries Group B	49	Basketball Arena
	21:15	23:00	USA vs ESP	Men's Preliminaries Group A	50	North Greenwich Arena
TUE 4 SEP			5A vs 5B	Women's Playoff 9-10	51	North Greenwich Arena
			1A vs 4B	Women's Quarterfinals	52	North Greenwich Arena
			2B vs 3A	Women's Quarterfinals	53	North Greenwich Arena
			2A vs 3B	Women's Quarterfinals	54	North Greenwich Arena
			1B vs 4A	Women's Quarterfinals	55	North Greenwich Arena