

Wheelchair Tennis Information Sheet

About the Sport

Wheelchair tennis first appeared at the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games. Its rules are similar to Olympic doubles tennis, however the ball is allowed to bounce twice.

Men and women play in singles (between two players) and doubles (between two pairs) matches. The winner of a match is determined by the first to win two sets.

Who can compete?

Wheelchair Tennis is open to athletes with a physical impairment. Athletes are required to submit medical reports and meet the minimum impairment criteria in order to compete.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Loss of limbs	Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.	Loss of all the toes on one foot, or complete loss of all bones in one toe (full ray missing).
Muscle weakness/Impaired muscle power	Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or other spinal condition.	Loss of strength in a hip, knee or ankle
Co-ordination impairments - Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis/Dystonia	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 at least one leg
Restricted joint movement/ Impaired passive range	Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.	Restricted movement in at least one hip, knee or ankle.

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Leg length difference	Significant difference in leg length due to a deficiency at birth or trauma.	At least 7cm difference between both legs

Wheelchair Tennis Sport Classes

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
Athletes with Physical Impairment	
Open	Players with an impairment in at least one of their legs. Players can make the full range of shots and can move with speed and precision around the court.
Quad	Players have impairment in both legs and at least one of their arms. Some players also have impairments in their torso. Players may use strapping to assist them to handle their racquet or maneuver their playing chair. Some players may not be able to perform an overhead serve.
Not Eligible (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 Tennis Australia for more information.

Find out more

To get involved or for more information contact:

Tennis Australia

W: <https://www.tennis.com.au/play/inclusion-and-diversity/disabilities/wheelchair-players>

E: tareception@tennis.com.au

P: [03 9696 2344](tel:0396962344)

Note: The classification information provided is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in accordance with the rules of the sport. Not all classes may have events at the Paralympic Games.

