

## Wheelchair Curling Information Sheet

### About the Sport

Wheelchair Curling had 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 (1 female and 1 male player) and Wheelchair Fours (each on-ice team must have four players delivering stones and must be comprised of both genders at all times during games). It is governed by and played according to the rules of World Curling (WC), with only one modification – no sweeping. The game consists of eight ends, each player delivers stones (Wheelchair Mixed Doubles a total of 5 stones are delivered and in Wheelchair Fours all 16 are delivered) after which an end is completed. Only the team with the stone closest to the tee scores. It scores one point for each stone closer to the tee than any of their opponent's stone

### 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 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.	<p>One Leg: Complete absence of one leg.</p> <p>Two legs: Loss of both legs above the ankle.</p> <p>Combination of limb loss and strength loss may also be eligible</p>

Eligible impairments	Description	Minimum Impairment Criteria
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.	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.
Co-ordination impairments - Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis	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.
Restricted joint movement/ Impaired passive range	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.

## Wheelchair Curling Sport Classes

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

Sport Class	Description (Guide Only)
Athletes with a <b>Physical Impairment</b>	
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](http://www.curling.org.au)**

**E: [secretary@curling.org.au](mailto: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.