International Wheelchair Rugby Federation - Rule Change Policy

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This policy details the process for making changes to the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby (the “Rules”).

2. Changes to the Rules may be proposed at any time; however changes will not be implemented during the 12 months prior to the IWRF World Championship or the Summer Paralympic Games. Once a change to the Rules has been approved, it will be implemented effective on January 1 of the next odd numbered year.

PROPOSAL

Proposals to change the Rules may be made by any Full member in good standing with IWRF. Changes may also be proposed by a Standing Committee or Council of IWRF, or by the Board of Directors. All proposals will be processed in the same way, regardless of who proposed them.

Rule proposals are to be submitted on the attached form. The proposal must include the following:

- The full text of the proposed rule
- The justification for the rule
- An explanation of how the rule will function in the game
- A list of articles in the current rules that will need to be revised
- Information on testing of the proposed rule that has been done by the proposer

REVIEW

All Rule proposals will be sent to the IWRF Technical Committee and IWRF Athletes Council for review. Feedback will be given on the validity and workability of the change, and of any recommended adjustments to the rule proposal.

Following the review, the IWRF Board will decide if the proposal will continue to testing or if it will be rejected. If a proposal is rejected, the proposer will be given detailed feedback on the reasons. Decisions to reject a rule proposal are not subject to appeal.

TESTING

One country from each Zone, including country that proposed the change if applicable, will be assigned to test the rule. The aim of testing is to determine if the rule change addresses the issues identified in proposal and the effects of the rule change on game play. Testing must include observation of the rule change by an IWRF technical official and by an international level athlete, assigned by the Technical Committee and the Athletes Council.
Testing does not have to take place within events sanctioned by the IWRF or by IWRF member organizations or in regular league play. Testing can occur during games played at training camps or exhibition matches.

REPORTING

Following testing, the Technical Committee and the Athletes Council will report to the Board of Directors on the impact of the new rule along with a recommendation on whether the change should be implemented. The report should include the full text of all required changes to the Rules.

DECISION

The Board will review the reports of the Technical Committee and the Athletes Council and make a final decision to accept or reject the new rule. The Board will only accept or reject the rule as proposed; no amendments to the proposal will be made at this stage.

The Board may choose to return the proposal to an earlier level of the process to further review or testing.

If the proposal is rejected, or if it is returned to an earlier level, the Board will provide reasons. The decision of the Board to reject a proposal or return it to an earlier level is not subject to appeal.
Appendix - Rule Proposal Form

TO BE DEVELOPED