



**International Wheelchair Rugby Federation**

# **Competition Regulations**

**1 January 2017**

---

These Regulations apply to Wheelchair Rugby events sanctioned by the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF).

## Rules

All IWRF sanctioned events will be conducted in accordance with all official Rules and Regulations of IWRF.

## Eligibility

Countries participating in IWRF sanctioned events must be members in good standing of IWRF.

Athletes participating in IWRF sanctioned events must meet the requirements of the IWRF Nationality Policy.

Athletes must have a valid IWRF international sport class and must be in possession of an IWRF Classification Card. Classification may be conducted prior to or during the competition.

## Qualification

For each IWRF official championship, IWRF will publish qualification rules that detail how countries qualify to participate. The qualification document will specify:

- Criteria for direct qualification
- Events that will be used to qualify participating teams
- Timelines for qualification
- A process for selecting replacements if a qualified team declines or is unable to participate.

Qualification rules for championships will respect the following principles:

1. Host country's right of participation
2. Previous champion's right of participation (for World Championships and Paralympic Games)
3. Representation of all IWRF Zones, in proportion to the number of countries in the Zone which are active participants in IWRF competitions.
4. Opportunities for countries which did not qualify through their Zones to qualify through a global Qualification Tournament

For other IWRF sanctioned events, the Organizing Committee will set guidelines for participation and qualification, subject to review and approval by IWRF.

---

## Technical Officials

For all sanctioned events, IWRF will appoint a Technical Delegate. The role of the Technical Delegate is to ensure the event takes place in accordance with all IWRF rules and regulations. The Technical Delegate has the authority, on behalf of the IWRF, to rule on any technical situation not explicitly covered by IWRF rules or regulations. The Technical Delegate must have no other official role with respect to the event.

For IWRF official championships, IWRF will determine the required number and roles of international technical officials, including technical delegates, referees, classifiers, commissioners, and evaluators. IWRF will select all international technical officials for championships.

For other IWRF sanctioned events, IWRF, in consultation with the Organizing Committee, will determine the required number and roles of technical officials and the process for their selection.

Provision of trained table officials for IWRF sanctioned events is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee.

## Entries

The IWRF or the Organizing Committee of a sanctioned event will set deadlines for entries and for payment of registration fees, including an advance on the registration fee. Once the deadline for payment of a fee has passed, the fee will not be refunded if the team withdraws from the event, unless the withdrawal is for reasons which are beyond the reasonable control of the team entering.

The IWRF or the Organizing Committee of a sanctioned event will set deadlines for submission of athlete long lists and final rosters. These dates will be set in consultation with the IWRF Technical Delegate for the event. If no date is set for the submission of a final roster the team roster must be presented to the Organizing Committee at the time the team arrives at the event.

Only those athletes listed on a team's long list may be named to the final roster for the team during the event.

After the deadline for final roster submission, no substitutions will be permitted except for medical reasons pertaining to one of the rostered athletes. An athlete substituted for medical reasons can only be replaced by another athlete from the long list.

The IWRF Technical Delegate for the event will make the final determination if a substitution can be made.

## Draw

For each IWRF official championship, IWRF will conduct a draw process to assign participating countries to groups for competition. The format of this draw process will be published by IWRF. The draw should respect the following principles:

- Teams will be drawn and assigned to groups from pairs
- Pairs will be based on the IWRF World Ranking List at the time of the draw
- Pairs will be created starting with the two highest ranked teams in the competition, followed by the next two highest ranked teams, and so on, until all teams have been paired.
- With the exception of the host country's pair, pairs will be drawn in descending order of World Ranking
- The host country's pair will be assigned last and the host will have the option of selecting their group.

For other IWRF sanctioned events, the Organizing Committee will determine the process to assign participating countries to groups for competition, subject to review and approval by IWRF.

Any process that relies on rankings of teams for a draw, seeding, or assignment to groups must use the IWRF World Ranking List that is valid on the date that the seeding, draw, or other assignment to groups is conducted.

## Schedule

Following the assignment of countries to groups, the Organizing Committee will develop the competition schedule in consultation with the Technical Delegate. The schedule should respect the following principles:

- No team should be scheduled for back to back games; this includes the last match on one day and the first match on the following day.
- There should be a minimum of two game slots between team matches, or at least four hours between the end of one match and the start of the following match.
- Teams should not play the two closest ranked teams to them in pool play, based on the relative seeding of teams, on the same day.
- The progression from easier to harder matches during pool play, based on the relative seeding of teams, should favor the higher seeded teams.
- The host nation has preference for pool play timings to support spectator attendance and broadcast opportunities.

These principles are intended to ensure consistency in scheduling across IWRF events. It will not always be possible to respect all principles in a tournament, but they should guide the setting of the schedule.

The competition schedule will be reviewed and approved by the Technical Delegate to ensure it complies with IWRF regulations.

## **Teams and Staff**

At all IWRF sanctioned events, teams will be permitted to register up to twelve athletes. No team in an IWRF sanctioned event may enter more than twelve athletes on the final roster. Organizing Committees are not to place any restriction on the sport class or gender of registered athletes without the permission of IWRF.

At all IWRF sanctioned events, teams may have a maximum of six staff members in the team bench area during games. Teams will be permitted to register at least six team staff members. Additional staff may also be registered at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

## **Tie Breaking**

All games at sanctioned events shall be played until a winner is declared. Games that are tied at the end of regulation time shall continue through as many overtime periods as are necessary to resolve the tie. This applies to all rounds of play.

To determine rankings at the end of the preliminary round, teams will be awarded two points for a win and zero points for a loss. This includes wins and losses by forfeiture.

If two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the preliminary round, the following procedures shall be used, in the order presented, to resolve the tie. As soon as one of these procedures is found to resolve the tie, the subsequent procedures are not to be used.

If a tie arises subsequent to the resolution of an earlier tie, these procedures are to be used again, in order, beginning with the first.

1. Forfeit: A tied team which forfeit a match during the preliminary round shall be deemed to have lost the tie.
2. Points - Tied Teams: Teams will be ranked based on points gained in the preliminary round matches between the tied teams.
3. Goal Differential - Tied Teams: Teams will be ranked based on the goal differential, the difference between the sums of the scores for and against a team, in the preliminary round matches between the tied teams.
4. Most Goals - Tied Teams: Teams will be ranked based on which team scored the most goals in the preliminary round matches between the tied teams.

5. Goal Differential - All Teams: Teams will be ranked based on the goal differential in all preliminary round matches.
6. Most Goals - All Teams: Teams will be ranked based on which team scored the most goals in all preliminary round matches.
7. Coin toss - Teams will be ranked based on the results of a coin toss.

## Suspensions

Any player who receives a disqualifying foul during a match in an IWRF sanctioned event will be suspended from the next match in that event.

Any player who receives two flagrant fouls during an IWRF sanctioned event will be suspended from the next match in that event following the match in which the second flagrant foul was received.

After a player has served a suspension for receiving two flagrant fouls in a tournament, that player's flagrant foul count will be reset to zero.

The Technical Commissioner for a match will report any flagrant or disqualifying fouls to the IWRF Technical Delegate. The Technical Delegate will advise the Organizing Committee of any suspensions due to flagrant or disqualifying fouls.

Suspended athletes will appear on the score sheet with a line drawn through their name to indicate the suspension.

Suspensions made under this article do not carry forward past the end of the event. Flagrant fouls issued during one IWRF sanctioned event do not carry forward to the next.

## Doping Control

All athletes participating in IWRF sanctioned events may be subject to doping control under the IWRF Anti-Doping Rules.

IWRF will be the sole results management authority for doping control conducted at IWRF sanctioned events, except for events sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee. IWRF will determine the number and type of tests and when the tests are to be conducted.

No doping control may be conducted by other organizations at IWRF sanctioned events except with the permission of IWRF.

---

## Protocol

The IWRF Flag must be displayed at all sanctioned events.

At IWRF official championships, the President of the IWRF or his or her representative shall take precedence, followed by members of the IWRF Board of Directors.

All IWRF official championships should include an Opening Ceremony. The form of the Ceremony may be adapted as required to meet the needs of the event. All Opening Ceremonies should include the following elements:

- Presentation of teams
- A declaration opening the event
- Oaths by athletes, officials, and coaches.

The text of the Oaths can be found in the *IWRF Code of Conduct*.

Other sanctioned events should include some form of Opening Ceremony to welcome the participants and open the event. The format may be adapted as required to meet the needs of the events.

All IWRF official championships shall include a Medal and Closing Ceremony following the final match of the event.

The medal ceremony constitutes part of the event. No medal winner shall refuse to take part in the medal ceremony. All competitors receiving medals shall be properly dressed indicating the country they represent.

The form of the Ceremony may be adapted as required to meet the needs of the event. All Closing and Medal Ceremonies should include the following elements:

- Presentation of the teams finishing first, second, and third in the competition.
- Presentation of medals to the athletes
- Presentation of the trophy to the first-place team
- Playing of the national anthem of the first-place team
- A declaration closing the event

Other sanctioned events should include some form of Closing and Medal Ceremony to close the event. The format presented above may be adapted as required to meet the needs of the event.

---

## Protests and Appeals

Decisions made by IWRF Referees, during matches at IWRF sanctioned events, under the sport technical rules of IWRF as set out in the *International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby* can only be dealt with under the *IWRF Decision Review Process*.

Decisions made by IWRF Classifiers regarding the award of a specific sport class as part of a classification process can only be dealt with under the *IWRF Classification Manual*.

If a team or individual at an IWRF sanctioned event has any concern regarding any other decision made under these Regulations, or under any other Rule or Regulation of IWRF, they should approach the IWRF Technical Delegate and request a review of the decision. The Technical Delegate has the authority, on behalf of the IWRF, to rule on any such request.

Decisions of the IWRF Technical Delegate may be appealed under the terms of the *IWRF Appeals Policy*.