

Wheelchair basketball

In wheelchair basketball, athletes with lower limb or other impairments play the ball by skilfully operating a wheelchair designed for competition use. The sport features aggressive offence and defence by wheelchair athletes, including speedy chair moves and quick passes.

Rules:

Almost the same rules as for Olympic basketball

Each team consists of a maximum of 12 players with 5 players on court. The game is played in 4 quarters of 10 minutes each. The winner is determined based on the total score across the 4 quarters. The size of the court, height of the basket and ball size are the same as in regular basketball. Players compete in wheelchairs exclusive to basketball that enable them to move quickly and turn around easily. Certain rules have been adapted according to the characteristics of the wheelchair; for example, a travelling violation is imposed if a player takes more than two pushes while in possession of the ball.

Column:

The biggest attraction is the line-up of 5 players.

Wheelchair basketball players who have 2.5 or more points are called “high-pointers”, while those who have 2 or fewer points are called “low-pointers”. An important part of the game is the use of a careful strategy to select 5 players for a team to ensure their total number of points does not exceed 14. There have been recent rises in male players from Great Britain and the USA and female players from the Netherlands.

The Japanese male team have competed in 11 consecutive Paralympic Games since the Toronto 1976 Games and the female team have won bronze medals at the past two Games, so both the male and female teams are expected to be successful at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Trivia:

Players are unable to stand up from the wheelchair during the game but instead raise the wheel on one side of the chair to gain height.

Venue:

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, wheelchair basketball will be held at Ariake Arena and Musashino Forest Sport Plaza.