

Wheelchair fencing

Paralympic fencing requires mental toughness and concentration. Fencers cannot move back and forth using their feet so they always stay close to their opponent, meaning they need to be focused at all times during the game.

The thrilling battle that begins immediately is so tense that you won't even have time to breathe. You'll be impressed by the focus on display from the fencers.

Rules:

The basic rules are the same as for Olympic fencing.

Contestants wearing a uniform and mask fight in a wheelchair fixed to a device called a "piste" and hit their opponent with a metal sword to score points. A characteristic of the sport is fighting using only the upper body. Individual games consist of three sets of three minutes and the winner is determined by points. For both the men's and women's games, the valid target area in foil is the torso only, whereas the entire body above the waist is a valid target area in the epee. The sabre features thrusting and cutting the entire body above the waist. In the foil and sabre, no points are awarded unless fencers have the right of way.

Classification:

Athletes with a lower limb impairment are eligible for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. A total of eight events are held, including gender-specific individual and team games in each category.

Column:

Techniques and agility to catch the opponent off guard!

Fencers need accurate sword-handling techniques as they are unable to employ tactics by moving back and forth as in Olympic fencing. They showcase outstanding technique and agility to catch their opponent off guard while constantly hitting each other at close quarters.

It's an intense competition and the wheelchairs can sometimes tilt with the piste. The sport is practised mainly in European countries but is expanding to the USA and Asia.

Trivia:

In epee events, athletes cover the lower half of their body with a metal apron to ensure hits to off-target areas are not registered.

Venue:

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, wheelchair fencing will be held at Makuhari Messe Hall B.