

Wheelchair Athletes Participation at MPA State Track and Field Meets

Goal: To enable the wheelchair track and field athlete the avenue to contribute to team scoring in a track meet.

Details of Inclusion in the MPA State Track and Field Meet:

1. Eligibility
 - A. A wheelchair athlete is anyone with a permanent physical disability. A statement of disability must be on file with the school nurse or designated personnel responsible for student health issues.
 - B. All wheelchair athletes must meet the rules established by the MPA and individual school districts.
 - C. All wheelchair athletes must qualify to the state meet through the outlined qualifying procedure. The wheelchair athlete must meet or exceed the minimum standards established by the MPA sanctioned qualifying meets.

2. Events

Each competitor is limited to four of the following events:

 - A. 100 Meter
 - B. 400 Meter
 - C. 800 Meter
 - D. 1600 Meter
 - E. Shot put
 - F. Discus

3. Scoring
 - A. A wheelchair athlete will compete against the same gender for individual honors. The wheelchair athlete will vie for team honors within their respective classification and gender.
 - B. When a wheelchair athlete competes against another wheelchair athlete of the same gender, and finishes first, two points will be awarded to his/her team. The second place finisher receives one team point. If three wheelchair athletes participate then the points will be awarded three, two and one. This scoring system will continue as illustrated in the table below.

10	8	6	5	4	3	2	1
8	6	5	4	3	2	1	
6	5	4	3	2	1		
5	4	3	2	1			
4	3	2	1				
3	2	1					
2	1						
1							
 - C. If the wheelchair athlete is competing solo against the standards established by the MPA then he/she will be awarded one team point for meeting or exceeding the standards for that event.

4. Track Equipment and Rules

A wheelchair participant shall compete in Track events in a manually operated (no gears) wheelchair that meets legal specifications as follows:

- A. A wheelchair should have a maximum of four wheels.
- B. The diameter of the two wheels (including the inflated tire) shall not exceed 28 inches. Other wheels' diameters shall not exceed 20 inches (including the inflated tire).
- C. Only one push rim shall be attached to each large wheel.
- D. The chair's seat, including the cushion, shall not exceed 25 inches in height.
- E. The athlete, when in the racing chair (on or off the track) shall wear an approved bicycle helmet.
- F. If not specifically mentioned in this document the chair shall comply with Wheelchair Track & Field USA (WTFUSA) / International Paralympic Committee (IPC) rules.

5. Field Equipment and Rules

An athlete may throw from his/her wheelchair or a throwing frame. Both must comply with the following standards:

- A. The throwing frame sitting surface including the cushion must not exceed 75 cm in height.
- B. The frame (and wheelchair option) shall be anchored with straps to stakes in the ground. The stakes and straps may be in or outside of the throwing circle.
- C. If the frame has a holding bar, it must be fixed (no articulating joints) and rigid (no flex).
- D. The athlete may use non-elastic straps to anchor them into the chair.
- E. No part of the throwing frame or wheelchair may be outside the circumference of the circle. The athlete's foot or arm (if off the ground) may be outside the throwing circle.
- F. Athletes may compete with one or both feet on or off the ground. If the athlete competes with a foot on the ground the foot must be inside the circle and the athlete's butt may not rise off the throwing frame until the implement leaves their hand.
- G. The size of the discus, shot, and javelin for wheelchair participants shall be the same as for all other male and female participants.
- H. If not specifically mentioned in this document the chair/frame and athlete rules shall comply with Wheelchair Track & Field USA (WTFUSA) / International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

If a wheelchair athlete competes alone in a sport (*boys/girls*), he/she shall be required to meet standards in order to win first place in the event and score 1 team point in the event as a wheelchair contestant. If a contestant fails to meet the required standard in an event, he/she shall not be awarded a place or any points in the event. Minimum required standards shall be:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
100 meter dash	40 seconds	45 seconds
400 meter dash	3:00 minutes	3:15 minutes
800 meter run	6:00 minutes	6:30 minutes
1600 meter run	10:00 minutes	11:00 minutes
Discus	15'0"	8'0"
Shot Put	6'0"	4'0"

Track standards do not apply to cinder tracks.

The size of the discus and shot put for wheelchair participants shall be the same as all other male and female participants.

When competing in the outdoor state track and field meet, all wheelchair participants shall be required to compete on the same day of the meet as their classification. Points scored by a wheelchair athlete shall count towards his/her team score in all outdoor track and field meets including regular season, league and/or state meets. However, if the points scored by the wheelchair athlete enables his/her team to tie or exceed the highest team point total of another team(s) then the team with the wheelchair athlete(s) will be declared the co-champions and the other team(s) without the wheelchair athletes will be declared the outright champion(s). This same rule will apply in determining the runner-up position.

Wheelchair participants shall qualify for the state meet following the same qualifying procedures as other participants in the same class.