

History of WASUSA and WTFUSA

WASUSA, and WTFUSA was started in 1956 and grew out of the interests of athletes with disabilities - many of whom were veterans of World War II. They wanted to participate in sports other than basketball, .

The WASUSA and WTFUSA program appealed to even greater numbers of athletes with disabilities because it was able to incorporate women and quadriplegics (those with paralysis in upper as well as lower extremities).

In the 1980's through 2000's WTFUSA has worked around the country with states and Athletic Directors to include high school wheelchair students into track and field.

Over 50 Years of Inclusion History

- WTFUSA & WASUSA programs are a major pipeline to the U.S. Paralympic movement.
- At the 2008 Paralympics in China, WASUSA/WTFUSA wheelchair athletes received 14 medals and were the major contributor to the USA medal count in Track and Field.



Wheelchair Track and Field USA (WTFUSA)
Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA
(WASUSA)

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How Do I Include The High School Wheelchair Athlete In Track and/or Field

➤ ➤ ➤ **Wheelchair Track & Field USA** (WTFUSA)
Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA (WASUSA)
U.S. Paralympics (a division of the United States Olympic Committee)



**Inclusion is your obligation;
we can help you through the process!**

How Do You Include:

Wheelchair track and field has existed for more than 50 years at the local, national, and international levels and is currently experiencing an increase in participation on high school track teams and local youth track clubs. Though participation at the high school level has occurred for more than two decades, there are no nationally accepted rules concerning scoring or mixing runners and wheelers in track heats when appropriate.

WTFUSA or WASUSA can help to guide you through the inclusion process. We have experience with Wheelchair sports and can provide you with information and resources to make the inclusion process easier. Remember, you are not the first school district or state who has included wheelchair athletes into local, district and state athletics competitions. Let us help you!



WTFUSA can help to guide you through the inclusion process.

Call WTFUSA or WASUSA for support.

OPTIONS:

You have a few models, from states such as Louisiana, Washington, Georgia or New Jersey that have included and accommodated athletes in the past. Over 12 states currently include Wheelchair athletes in their programs.

WTFUSA has a National Guideline document and phone support available to help guide you through the process.

Inclusion should allow for the wheelchair athlete to earn points for their team, but some states have chosen a non-point program. Both approaches award medals and assign records attainable at the state, local and district levels. Basics:

- Athletes should participate by sex; the same as any other high school student.
- Athletes should follow WTFUSA/IPC rules for helmets, and equipment measurements. The athletes should follow state rules for track and field events.
- Wheelchair athletes can run in the same heat with their able-bodied counterparts or in separate heats at local/dual meets and as a wheelchair division in separate heats at the District/Group or State meets.



**Track & Field
is a Sport**

How do you manage Wheelchair Athletes:

- Wheelchair track athletes may race all track events from the 100M through the 2 mile.
- Wheelchair athletes should be coached as middle distance runners.
- At local/dual meets wheelchair athletes may run with their able-bodied teammates (scoring separately) or in separate heats.
- For out of lane races wheelchair competitors (running with AB runners) should start on the outside or in the second row.
- State records should be established for the 100, 400, 800 and 1600M (at a minimum).
- Athletes should be able to earn high school letters by establishing letter criteria with their coaches.
- Points or State meet qualification should be given if the athlete meets a time or distance standard (25yrs of results are available and may be used to setup standards through WTFUSA).

Help is available:

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