



NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

ROLL MODELS

Proposed NWBA Bylaw Amendment Form

Submit to NWBA Executive Director Jim Scherr no later than December 29, 2016

All Submissions Must Be Typed

Section: 16.5 Website

Proposed By: Cara Gulbranson, Program Coordinator at Courage Kenny

Rationale for Change:

In order to properly serve and communicate with all NWBA constituencies, as mentioned in Section 4.2: Purposes, the NWBA bylaws and divisional bylaws, rules, regulations must be up to date on the website. This would also fall into the category of a best practice by the NWBA that they maintain an up to date website with information that constituents rely on. Currently, the website has very outdated bylaws and the following bylaws last updated on:

NWBA Bylaws – January 12th, 2013

Junior Division – April 3rd, 2014

Division II and Division III – No last amended date

Division I – April 19, 2013

Women's – March 24th, 2012

Intercollegiate – from 2014-2015 season

Section 4.2: Purposes.

3) To protect the interests of the NWBA membership: a. By creating a fiscally stable environment and ensuring sound financial decisions. **b. By establishing governance best practices.** c. By creating and maintaining a professional, effective, and efficient management structure and environment. **d. By ensuring good communications with all NWBA constituencies.** e. By ensuring national competitive excellences through the development of players, coaches, and teams. f. By ensuring international competitive excellence, including sanctioning international amateur athletic competition in wheelchair basketball and by allowing member teams and athletes to compete in sanctioned competitions. g. By ensuring adequate resource development by identifying, increasing, and acquiring revenue streams. h. By fostering, celebrating, and augmenting the NWBA tradition.



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Current Bylaw:

Section 16.5: Website.

The NWBA shall maintain a membership website for the dissemination of information to its members. NWBA shall publish on its membership website:

- i. its Bylaws;
- ii. the NWBA's rules and regulations
- iii. a procedure for communicating with the Board of Directors regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or audit-related matters,
- iv. its most recent annual financial statement, and v. its most recent 990 form filed with the Internal Revenue Service

So as to facilitate the ability of interested parties to communicate their concerns or questions, the NWBA shall publish on its website a mailing address and an e-mail address for communications directly with the Board.

Proposed Bylaw: (All changes and/or deletions must be in red)

Section 16.5: Website.

The NWBA shall maintain a membership website for the dissemination of information to its members. NWBA shall publish on its membership website:

- i. its most recent NWBA bylaws and divisional bylaws posted to the website within 60 days after annual delegates meeting
- ii. the NWBA's most recent rules and regulations
- iii. a procedure for communicating with the Board of Directors regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or audit-related matters,
- iv. its most recent annual financial statement, and v. its most recent 990 form filed with the Internal Revenue Service

So as to facilitate the ability of interested parties to communicate their concerns or questions, the NWBA shall publish on its website a mailing address and an e-mail address for communications directly with the Board.



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Section: Not Sure

Proposed By: Rodney Williams

Rationale for Change:

WTU in the NWBA

Logic

It is my intention to convince NWBA to allow Military WTU and integrate them into community teams. Also, to allow full membership rights, including tournament play.

NWBA HISTORY

World War II veterans gave birth to wheelchair basketball in 1946. They played in Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals in Birmingham (CA) and Framingham (MA), as well as at the Corona Naval Station (CA) where World War II veterans were being treated for various degrees of paralysis. The Birmingham Report published an article on November 26, 1946, titled "Plegics Win Wheelchair Game, 16 to 6". The veterans competed against doctors who practiced at the Birmingham Hospital. In 1947 the Birmingham team traveled to the Corona Naval Station where they competed in the first match between two wheelchair basketball teams.

Within two years, six teams emerged representing VA hospitals across the US. National tournaments were organized and hosted by the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

In 1948, the NWBA and the first official National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament (NWBT) were organized by the NWBA pioneer and Hall-of-Fame inductee Tim Nugent of the University of Illinois. That same year, in a remarkable act of self-determination, the Birmingham VA Flying Wheels took to the air and challenged VA hospital teams throughout the US. Wheelchair basketball soon became the number one sport of individuals with disabilities. VA teams and players joined the NWBA shortly after 1948.

We, the NWBA, are what we are because of the Military pioneers that have preceded us. It is important to honor our founders in a way that shows respect and understanding.

In recent wars ordinance and protective equipment has changed, thereby changing the injuries we have seen. Once, where ordinance was designed to strictly kill as many as possible, the military has improved its' protective equipment. Once, if you were hit by ordinance, you had an extremely high chance of being killed. Now, the protective is so effective, that we see more "concussive" type injuries and a life is



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saved. Now, we are seeing a tremendous number of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They go to hospitals, get diagnosed and treated and then have to return to their families for care. What they miss the most is being with their unit and brothers in arms. It gave them a sense of well being. Being a part of strong social or athletic community does more to heal than we may know. We do know that being in a social atmosphere helps as they are not drawn to the feeling of being alone, and that feeling leads to the high number of Veteran suicides that we are seeing. I believe that number is now at 22/day.

I have been a small part of this effort by the Military to help this situation by helping to teach the Wounded Warrior Unit (WTU) wheelchair basketball program for 6 years now. I have worked with the Marines for two years, the Air Force one year and this is my third year with the Army. Without exception, after each camp I get asked the same question; coach, where can I play wheelchair basketball. And, invariably, the answer is always the same: "I'm sorry, but you are not eligible to play this sport".

1–6. General a. WTUs are designed to meet the needs of Soldiers who are wounded, ill, or injured and who require medical case management through the Triad of Care and other medical and nonmedical providers forming an interdisciplinary team. b. The Triad of Leadership consists of the senior commander (SC) and command sergeant major (CSM); the MTF commander and CSM; the WTU commander and CSM, and first sergeant (1SG). The Triad of Leadership executes policy for the WTU entry, management, and exit of a Soldier in order to maintain a balanced WTU structure and capability that is dynamic and responsive to the medical needs of every Soldier. c. The Triad of Care consists of the primary care manager (PCM), nurse case manager (NCM), and squad leader (SL) or platoon sergeant (PSG) forming the M2 and mission command. This Triad of Care works in concert with the Triad of Leadership and other medical and nonmedical providers to develop a plan of care, specific to each Soldier that addresses medical treatment, administrative and support needs, and disposition. Each assigned WTU Soldier receives a Triad of Care to direct and supervise the healing process. d. The interdisciplinary team includes all personnel to include the Triad of Care that play a role in the Soldier's healing, recovery, and transition. e. A WTU Soldier is a wounded, ill, or injured Soldier who requires clinical and case management through the AR 40–58 • 23 March 2015 1 Triad of Care. A WTU Soldier falls under the mission command and M2 of a WTU. A WTU Soldier's primary mission is to heal and transition. f. Assignment or attachment of a Soldier to a WTU will not be performed solely to facilitate the early requisitioning of replacement personnel or for purely compassionate reasons.

It got me thinking about the real differences between an "able body" and a person that has an amputated toe, and it doesn't make much sense. These players are given the highest points within our system, so is there really that much difference?

Let's look at some of the potential benefits of allowing someone from the WTU to join a local team.



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- a. To encourage those that have served and have born the scars of battle to become physically and emotionally engaged, healing the mind, body and spirit, thereby improving their quality of life.
- b. Bolstering local teams with new personnel.
- c. Creating opportunities for improving the physical and mental health of these individuals.
- d. Potentially improving the financial stability of local teams by possibly securing support from local service organizations.

With the collected dues from each NWBA team, none of which goes to help the general membership, the only member group I am aware of to get monetary support is the elite athletes program.

Also, the NWBA needs to understand how much the proper marketing can do to improve their status. Take, for example, the US Paralympic Sled Hockey Team. They have 6 former military members and guess what? They were on the National news, bringing attention to the sport of sled hockey. On the other hand, of the several, very capable, NWBA members from military background, not even one was invited to the Paralympic Trials. Is this because that none of them were ever in the college program? Just imagine the press and attention to the program if just one were to be placed on the team, elevating the status of the NWBA beyond its' current status with the press.

Getting back to the original proposal, it is one thing to say "we support our military" and another to truly support by allowing them to join our organization. In my narrow way of thinking, there is not too much difference between a player with an amputated big toe and an able bodied person. The big difference here is that the military personnel I am advocating must all have come from the the military's Warrior Transition Unit and can prove so. I am in no way proposing here to open membership to just any "able bodied" person, which has been been under severe discussion these days. Thank you, and we would like to present this at this year's meetings.

Rodney Williams
Lee Montgomery
William Hernandez
And the Armed Forces Services Corporation

Current Bylaw:

Not Sure

Proposed Bylaw: (All changes and/or deletions must be in red)



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If player has been in the military, and has been granted access to the Warrior Transition Unit, and regardless of their injury in battle, be allowed to play on any NWBA team. This would include not only physical, but also allow for PTSD and TBI.