



Rules

Level I
Coaching Education and Training Program



This program is made possible through a
generous grant from the
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Established in 2002, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation is the largest private foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury (SCI), by supporting innovative program services, specialty training and research on effective therapies, interventions and treatments, leading to a cure. Today, the Foundation funds SCI scientific research (basic, translational, clinical and psychosocial research); quality of life programs; postdoctoral and SCI medicine fellowships; and other projects to support the SCI community throughout the United States and Canada.



Presentation Objectives

- Understand the rules of wheelchair basketball and the differences from the stand up game
- Understand modifications to rules and equipment based on age/functional ability
- Know where to locate current rules and other resources on the NWBA website: www.nwba.org
- Understand the need for Head Coaches to pass an annual Rules Exam.



Rules

- NWBA Rules are based on current NCAA rules
- What are the differences?
 - Traveling: more than two consecutive pushes
 - 3 Seconds: several allowances of 3 second rule
 - Double Dribble: no double dribble rule
 - Free-Throw & 3-Point Line
 - Standard NCAA rules, except for Prep Division



To execute a dribble, a player may: (a) Wheel the chair by two pushes on the wheels (one hand or two hands in either direction) of the chair followed by one or more taps of the ball to the floor, after which he/she may start pushing again. (b) The player may not push more than twice, in succession, with one hand or two hands in either direction. Taking more than two pushes in succession constitutes a **traveling violation** and the ball is awarded to the opposing team out of bounds.

A player shall not remain in an **opponent's three-second lane** for more than three consecutive seconds while the ball is in control of that player's team in the front court and the game clock is running. Allowances shall be made for a player who: **(a)** Makes an attempt to leave the three-second lane. **(b)** Is in the three-second lane when he/she or a teammate is in the act of shooting and the ball is leaving or has just left the player's hand on the shot for a goal. **(c)** Dribbles in the three-second lane to shoot for a goal after having been there for less than three seconds. However, a player shall not pass the ball instead of trying for the goal. **(d)** Interlocks his/her wheelchair with an opponent.

Rules

- Equipment

- Cushion Size
 - 4" - Class 1.0-3.0
 - 2" – Class 3.5-4.5
- Chair Height: seat rail height of 21"
- Rear Caster/Fifth & Sixth Wheels
- Footrest
- Official Ball
 - Men, Collegiate and Varsity: Molten BGL7X
 - Women: Molten BGL6X
 - Prep: 27.5 Spaulding NBA Rookie Gear Composite
- Jersey Numbers – no use of 6, 7, 8 or 9



Use of a **cushion** is condoned, being of common understanding that it is specifically for therapeutic reasons. As such, it shall be composed of any therapeutic material as made by popular manufacturers, and shall not exceed four inches at its highest point (thickness) for Class 1.0-3.0 players, no more than two inches at its highest point (thickness) for Class 3.5-4.5 players. Pneumatic cushions and contoured cushions are permissible providing they are commercially manufactured for therapeutic use and do not exceed thickness restrictions (above). Cushions composed of non-therapeutic materials, such as hard (non-pliable) rubber, wood, or other solid composition, shall not be acceptable. In all situations, the decision of the officials shall be final.

The maximum height from the floor to the **top of the seat** rail shall not exceed 21 inches. Any player on the USA international team may use their international chair for competition in the NWBA. These chairs are approved playing chairs by the NWBA. Measurements must be taken with the front castor(s) in the forward driving position and the player must be out of the chair.

When the chair is in the forward driving position the chair is permitted to have **anti-tip casters** attached to the underside or rear of the chair. The lowest point of the anti-tip caster cannot exceed one inch from the floor nor can any part of the anti-tip caster project from the chair rearward so that it would extend past any part of the rear wheels.

The part of the **footrest** or roll bar that projects forward the furthest and which would be the first point of contact with another wheelchair in head-on contact must be at a height of not

more than five inches from the ground or court. The footrest must have rounded or smooth corners. Door bumpers, knobs, projections of folding footrest, or other projections from the body of the footrest, which may readily become entangled in the wheels and/or spokes of another chair, or used to hook and/or hold an opponent, shall not be allowed.

Rules

- Modifications for the Prep Division:
 - Ball Size: 27.5 Spaulding NBA Rookie Gear Composite
 - 8-1/2' Basket
 - 13' FT Line
 - No full court Press
 - (4) - 8 minute Quarters
 - Timeouts: 4 full



Rules

- **Player Eligibility**

To be eligible for play in the NWBA, a player shall have a permanent physical disability which consistently reduces the function of the lower limbs to a degree where they cannot run, pivot or jump at the speed and with the control safety, stability and endurance required to play running basketball as an able bodied player;



Section 1: Player Eligibility

- 1) To be eligible for play in the NWBA, a player shall have:
 - a. A permanent physical disability which consistently reduces the function of the lower limbs to a degree where they cannot run, pivot or jump at the speed and with the control safety, stability and endurance required to play running basketball as an able bodied player;
 - b. A disability that must be of a nature that it can be objectively verified by acknowledged medical and/or paramedical investigations such as measurement, X-ray, CT, MRI, etc.;
 - c. Including, but not limited to hip or knee joint replacements, and have provided confirmation of the relevant surgery from their attending physician or surgeon, and supporting X-rays/scans;
 - d. In the instance of amputation, at minimum total removal of the first ray of one foot;
 - e. In the instance of a leg length discrepancy, a minimum of a 6 cm difference in leg length as measured from the greater trochanter to the ground, as is verified by standing X-ray or confirmed by a measurement taken by a NWBA Classifier, except that the 6 cm minimum shall not apply to players for participation in the Junior Division.
- 2) Findings such as soft tissue contracture, edema or disuse atrophy, or symptoms such as pain or numbness without other objective findings shall not be considered a permanent lower extremity disability. Degrees of pain and/or numbness are not considered measurable and permanent disabilities within the meaning of Article 1, Section 1 of the NWBA Policies & Procedures.
- 3) An otherwise able-bodied player with a temporary disability is not considered eligible.

4) To be eligible to participate in any NWBA competitions, a player who does not have a lower extremity impairment which can be clearly established by observation alone will need to apply for consideration of their eligibility to the NWBA in accordance with Article 1, Section 5 of these policies and procedures. This application will be forwarded to the Classification Player Eligibility Committee for determination.

5) A player deemed eligible to play by the NWBA Eligibility Committee shall receive a letter confirming his/her eligibility. At the first official competition where a classification panel is present the player will present a proposed classification and will be observed during game situations. At the end of the competition the player will receive their certified classification if there was sufficient observation time.

Rules

- **Player Eligibility**

- Junior Division – Prep

- Boys and girls 13 years old and younger
 - Prep Division Exemption: players older than 13 who based on their disability are unable to play in the Varsity Division can petition to play in Prep division

- Junior Division – Varsity

- Boys and girls 21 years old and younger who are enrolled in high school or middle school.



Prep Division Exemption: A player 13 and up (still in middle or high school) with significant neurological (i.e. muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy) and/or cognitive disabilities (i.e. cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida with hydrocephalus/shunt malfunctions) which affect mobility, coordinated movement, strength, and endurance has the option to request a Prep Division Exemption to play in the Prep Division past the age of 13. These athletes must submit a formal a completed Prep Division Exemption Form and will be reviewed by the Junior Division Executive Committee for eligibility. An athlete meeting these requirements cannot compete in any tournament in the Varsity Division. At the start of their first competition, these players must be reviewed and have consent from at least two coaches of two opposing teams to remain in the Prep Division.

Rules

- Player Eligibility
 - College Division
 - Any player that meets the NWBA eligibility requirements
 - One able-bodied player on college teams with less than 12 players



Collegiate teams with less than 12 players on its roster are permitted to have Able-Bodied players participate in NWBA Collegiate games only for the 2016-17 season as a continuation of a policy that was implemented in the 2015-16 season.

Rules

- Player Eligibility
 - Division I, II and III
 - Any player that meets the NWBA eligibility requirements
 - Women's Division
 - Any female player that meets the NWBA eligibility requirement
 - Female players may also play on Men's teams and are classed one full point lower when playing on a men's team



A Task Force was formed in December of 2015 with the assignment to research and thereafter submit a proposal to the Board of Directors for its review regarding the need for a Division II within the Adult Division. The Board of Directors approved the formation of Division II to begin with the 2016-2017 season. The NWBA's Adult Division purpose is to provide a progressive level of competition for community based wheelchair basketball teams which will consist of:

DIVISION I: Formerly known as Championship Division. Allows the elite level and experienced individuals and teams to play at the highest level competition.

DIVISION II: Allows the experienced and more developed players and teams to play mid-level competition.

DIVISION III: Allows newer players and newer or lesser developed teams the ability to play at a developmental or recreational level.

Division I will follow the same rules and procedures from the prior years as Championship Division. **Division II** will play under the same rules as DI with 15 points on the floor. **Division III** will follow the rules from last season with 15 points on the floor and have no more than two players with classification points of 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 on the floor at the same time.

A list of teams for each Division is available below. There have been inquiries from a few teams as to if it would be allowed to play up a Division. If your team wishes to, you are

welcome to do so. The Division III Committee will oversee Division II for the 2016-2017 season (ninety percent of Division II is comprised from the top tier of Division III in the 2015-2016 season).

The National Tournament for each Division will consist of a 16-team format. Each team will be guaranteed four games.

Coaches Rule Exam

- All Head Coaches are required to pass an annual Rules Exam.
- The exam consist of 25 True/False questions
- Passing grade is 18 of 25 correct answers or 70%
- Coaches are allowed to take the exam as many times as necessary to achieve a passing score
- Visit the Coaches section of the NWBA website for information and a direct link to the exam.

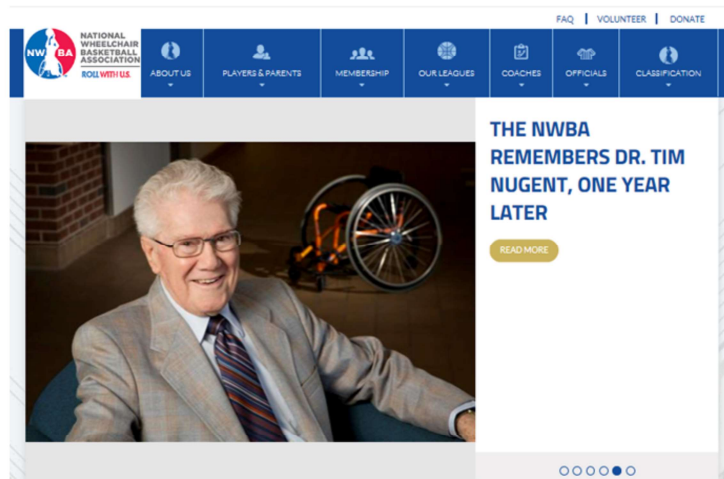


All NWBA Head Coaches are required to pass an annual Rules Exam that consists of 25 True/False questions. It is an open book test. It is highly recommended that you review the current NWBA Rules, Case Book and summary of current Rule Changes. A passing grade is 70% or 18 of 25 correct answers.

You will have as many opportunities to take the test and you need. You will be able to take part of the test, save it and return to finish it at a later time. Once you complete the test an email will be sent to you with the indicating if you have passed or not.

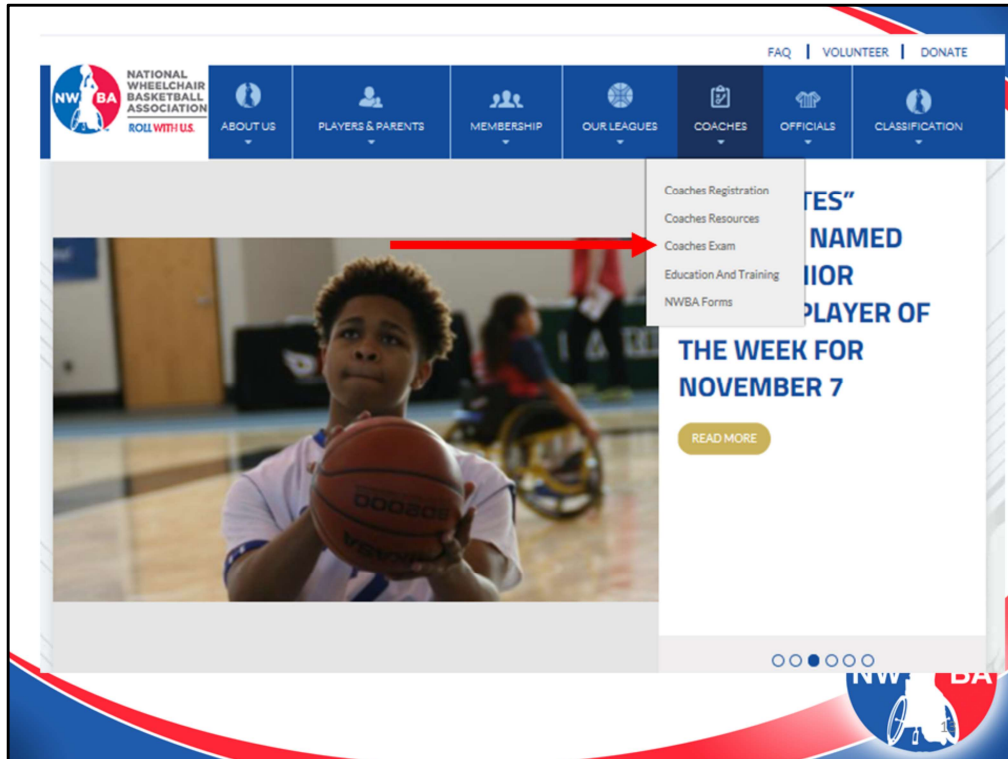
For more information visit the Coaches Section of the NWBA website:
<http://www.nwba.org/page/show/2089018-coaches-exam>

On-line Resources

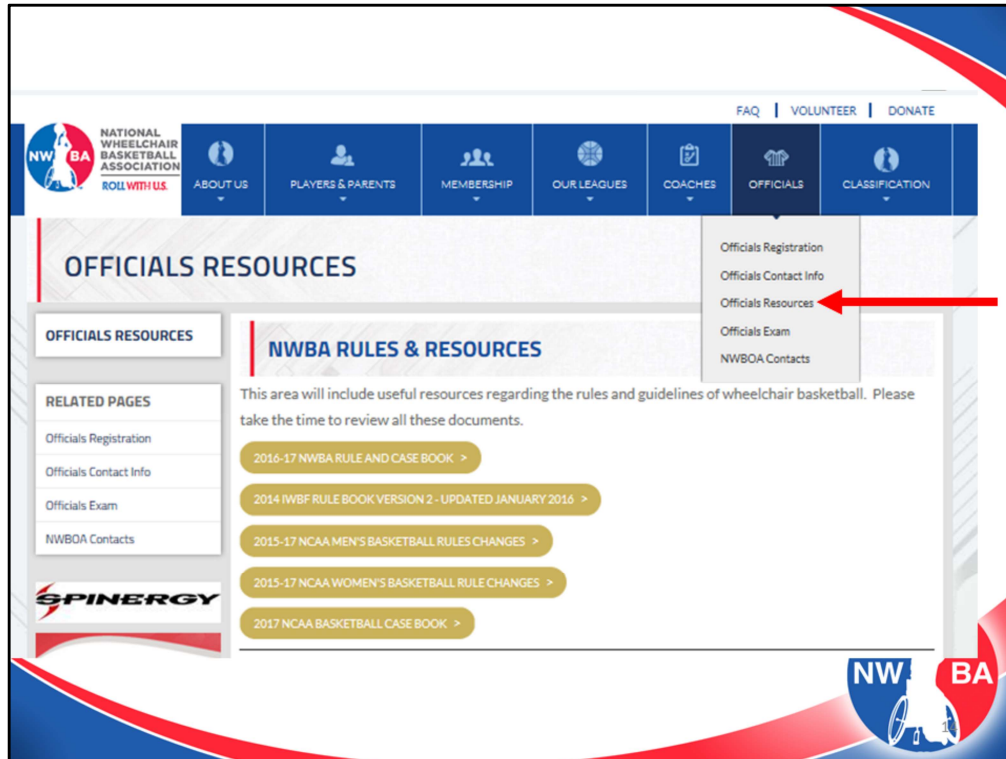


www.nwba.org





The NWBA website has a number of resources readily available to coaches under the Coaches tab of the main home-page of the website.



The NWBA website has a additional resources under the Officials' tab of the main home-page of the website including: current rule book and Case Book, current NCAA rule changes and NCAA Case Book .

NWBA sanctioned tournaments are required to use National Wheelchair Basketball Officials Association registered officials.

Questions on rules can be directed to

Michael Woodard
Chair of the NWBA Rules Committee
Head NWBA Official

m.w7591@yahoo.com

officials@nwba.org



Summary

- Rules are very similar to the stand up game with few differences
- Rules and equipment are modified for age/functional abilities
- Rules are based on current NCAA rules
- Coaches are required to take and pass an annual Rules Exam
- NWBA and NCAA rules are posted on the NWBA website: www.nwba.org

