**Pilot Program for a Military Division within the NWBA**

a). The purpose of this program is to create a military division for active and retired military personal to have the ability to compete in wheelchair basketball. The eligibility requirements of the NWBA do not allow those individuals with diagnosis of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), etc. to play within our current divisions. Therefore, this pilot program will allow them to have their own division. Currently, the Veterans Administration has created adaptive sports programming within their Warrior Transition Units (WTU) and Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB). From these programs, Warrior Games and Invictus Games have been created. The NWBA was created to provide opportunities to veterans to compete after injury and is currently underserving the population that started the organization.

b). **Bylaws**

* ARTICLE NINE Divisions Section 9.1: Definition. A Division is an organizational group of six (6) or more NWBA active teams established to promote and administer competition in the U.S. Divisions will be established when a subgroup of six (6) or more of the NWBA member teams choose to affiliate to compete with other teams with similar characteristics or purpose (i.e., gender, age, level of competition, educational affiliation).

**Policies & Procedures**

* Section 9: Division Structure Section 9.1: Definition A division is an organizational group of six (6) or more NWBA active teams established to promote and administer competition in the U.S. assist the NWBA staff in the administration of national competitions. Section 9.2: Purpose 1) Divisions may be established when a subgroup of NWBA teams with similar characteristics or purpose choose to affiliate for competition. 12 2) Each Division shall be tasked with the responsibility and authority to organize and administer its activities and competitions, outside of the National Tournament. All Divisions shall function in accordance with the NWBA Bylaws and the NWBA Policies and Procedures

c). We are seeking the pilot program for 2 seasons (2021-2022 and 2022-2023). At this point in time, it will be reviewed for permanent addition to the NWBA as a unique division.

d). The results of providing this opportunity to military service members will not only increase participation in NWBA but will provide a therapeutic recovery opportunity to these individuals who have sacrificed so much for us.  These athletes are already playing on military bases and within recovery programs.  It is the responsibility of the NWBA to provide adaptive sport experience to those who are not physically able to participate in traditional or able-bodied programs.  The “invisible injuries” such as PTSD, Depression, TBI, etc. strongly diminish the capability to participate in traditional sports. It will also help to expand our High-Performance pipeline by increasing the number of participants. Additionally, a new league also adds increased revenue to the NWBA.

e). Currently, there are 5 military teams in the South (Texas & Oklahoma). These teams have been playing each other for the past several years in their non-formal division in which they created their rules of eligibility to include those with TBI’s PTSD, etc. This group has organized themselves to play 3-4 tournaments a year and travel among themselves. Although, The Wolfpack is a military team, they will most likely remain in Division 1, but if not, this is a sixth possible team. As one can see, we have 5 teams between two states, this division is needed and will grow quickly.

f). The opposition to this proposal would be the rules that the NWBA has established for eligibility. Many of the military members would not fit into the current criteria. For this reason, we are suggesting a pilot program to test the increased participation in wheelchair sports by veterans.

g.) Team Composition

 i. A team will consist of 15 players each.

ii. During tournament play, five staff members (to include coaching staff) will be allowed to occupy the team bench.
iii. A team must always have five players on the court. The maximum number of any ONE classification MINIMUM, MODERATE, or MAXIMUM players on the court at any time is four players. Any other combination of classifications is permitted to field the court with five players.

h.) Measurement

 i. Number of new teams

ii. Revenue based on division

iii. Number of new athletes

iiii. As more data becomes available rules will be changed as seen fit

i). Athlete Classifications

 i. MINIMUM

* PTSD with minimal or no physical or cognitive impairments.
* Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with minimal or no physical or cognitive impairments. (Unable to follow four or more step commands).
* No impairment in truck control or mobility.
* Cognitive impairments may include but not limited to; memory loss, decreased organizational skills.
* Minimal (fair or below sitting balance) physical impairments may be evident caused by brain injury.

ii. MODERATE

* Moderate to severe cognitive ability (moderate level: unable to follow three or more step commands).
* Normal to decreased trunk movements in forward, sideways, and vertical planes as evidenced by a functionality test.
* Lower limb amputations meeting the following criteria.
	+ - Single below the knee amputation (BKA)
		- Single above the knee amputation (AKA)
		- Bilateral BKA with or without knee sockets
		- Single BKA with knee sockets with opposing limb AKA
		- Single hip disarticulation
		- Bilateral AKA with Greater that 2/3rds in both residual limbs

iii. MAXIMUM

* Complete to no controlled trunk movements int eh forward and vertical planes evidenced by a functionality test.
* Severe cognitive impairment with physical manifestations. i.e. Ataxic, dyskinesia movements (can only follow one-step commands).
* May preset with decreased or no trunk control in the sideways plane evidenced by a functional test.
* Players rely on their arms to return to the upright position when unbalanced
* Active upper rotation but no lower trunk function
* Upper limb amputations or dysfunction meeting the following criteria.
	+ - Below and bilateral below the elbow amputation
		- Below and bilateral below the elbow dysfunction in the elbow and/or wrist joints
* Lower limb amputations meeting the following criteria.
	+ - Single hemipelvectomy
		- Single AKA with greater than 2/3rds residual limb and single AKA with less than 2/3rd residual limb
		- Hemipelvectomy with single BKA without knee socket
		- Bilateral hip disarticulation
1. NWBA Military Division will be conducted in accordance with the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Adult Division rules.
2. Military athletes that have a qualifiable classification for NWBA will be allowed to dual roster with Military and Adult Divisions.