

# Wheelchair Rugby 5s Eligibility Criteria for Competitions

May 2021



## Wheelchair Rugby 5's Eligibility Criteria for Competitions

The IWRF is committed to providing competition between athletes with different types of physical disabilities. The eligibility criteria for WR5s, has been designed to ensure competition is open to anyone with a measurable physical impairment to compete on a fair, equal and inclusive basis.

WR5's eligibility is determined using the following criteria:

(a) An individual must have a permanent physical disability which, reduces the function of the lower limbs or upper limbs to a degree where they cannot run, pivot, throw, catch or jump at the speed and with the control, safety, stability and endurance required to play running able body rugby.

(b) An individual with a physical disability that results from a movement disorder with no organic cause identified, or a dysfunction of the neurological pathways, or a problem with the functioning of the nervous system with no damage or structural disease of the nervous system, are not classifiable due to their fluctuating physical presentation and are therefore not eligible to participate in WR5's competitions.

(c) An individual's disability must be such that an acknowledged medical practitioner can objectively verify it. Verification must be via a medical procedure such as an X-ray, CT, MRI, etc.

(d) An individual who has had hip, knee or other joint replacements will be required to provide confirmation of the relevant surgery in the form of a written statement from their GP, which will need to confirm a long-term loss of function and a physical impairment in order to compete.

(e) An individual who has incurred a limb amputation, must meet the minimal requirement for eligibility to qualify to play WR5's, which is the removal or significant damage/deformity to either the first ray of the foot or hand (first ray represents removal or damage to the Metatarsals (foot) and or Metacarpals (hand)).

(f) In the instance of a leg length discrepancy the minimal requirement for eligibility to play WR5's is a 6cm difference in leg length as measured from the greater trochanter to the ground in a standing x-ray.

(g) An individual with a Sensory impairment (deaf/blind) is not eligible to play WR5's unless they also have a physical impairment that satisfies the criteria to be qualified to play.

(h) An individual with a Mental Health Condition is not eligible to play WR5's unless they also have a physical impairment that satisfies the criteria to be qualified to play.

For WR5's Classification, degrees of pain are not considered measurable and/or permanent disabilities, subsequently individual with these conditions are not classifiable and not eligible to compete in WR5's. Below is a list of ineligible conditions (this list is not exhaustive and other impairments may be added at the National Member Organisation's [NMO] discretion).

- Chronic Pain Disorder
- Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome
- Fibromyalgia
- Functional Movement Disorders - As detailed above.
- Hyperextension

- Mental Health Conditions - PTSD etc
- Respiratory Illness Classification

The system has been designed to maximise participation and competition for those with a physical impairment. Players with an existing IWRF classification will use the WR5's classification to determine what their classification is for WR5's.

For players who do not have an IWRF classification this will be done on a self-declaration basis.

All teams will be required to submit their Team Roster and for players without an IWRF classification the Individual Player Form.

On the Team Roster coaches can add a description of an individual's impairment for players without an IWRF classification and then determine which classification they best fit.

Players can submit more detailed information on their impairment on the Individual Player Form to support their classification.

The NMO will review all forms received to check the self-declared classifications for non-IWRF classified players.

If the NMO believes further information is required to support a proposed classification then this will be requested in-conjunction with a IWRF qualified classifier who will then review any additional medical information supplied and make a final decision on which classification a player fits.

Additional medical information can include a medical report or results letter from a recognised professional such as a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist or a Doctor.

<b>Wheelchair Rugby 5's Eligibility Criteria</b>
Club coaches will be asked to assess their players, against the following criteria:
0.5-point player = current 0.5-1.5
IWRF classified players 1.0-point player = current 2.0-3.5
IWRF classified players 1.5-point player = current 4.0
NMO classified players and players with an impairment in one upper limb. 2.0-point player = impairment in both lower limbs.
3.0-point player = impairment in one lower limb, or other impairments that makes the athlete unable to stand or walk unassisted.
Teams will be permitted a maximum of 10 points on court.

With grateful thanks GBWR who developed the criteria.