

Following the 2025 testing period, changes to the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby ratified by the Board in the January 01, 2026 version of the Rules.

The ratification process for these rule changes included survey feedback from Member Nations and Rules Sub Committee members in addition to consultation with the Rules Sub Committee, WWR Competitions Working Group, Universities engaged in research with the WWR and Paralympic Broadcasters. All work was conducted in alignment with the WWR Rule change policy.

Testing confirmed to following changes for implementation through the 2028 Paralympic Games;

1. 8 second inbound time, key time & dribble time.
2. Penalty times, both try release and served.
3. Modification of number, time and use of Time Outs
4. Remove loss of 60 second time out as an element of the Equipment Technical Foul penalty

The testing period highlighted the need for ongoing monitoring of the rule allowing 1 additional point for each female athlete with a class of 2.0 - 3.5. The WWR will engage in current and new research opportunities that more deeply examine the impact to player utilization. This rule will be implemented as tested. Any future changes will be informed by research findings, following the 2028 Paralympic Games.

Additional changes will be amended in the Competitions regulations to remove the game suspension for a player who receives two flagrant foul sanctions in an event. Athletes receiving two flagrant foul sanctions in a single game will still be removed from the remainder of that game but will be allowed to return in the following match.

This table details final amendments and clarifications to the January 01, 2026 World Wheelchair Rugby Rules. The table shows text from specific articles in the Rules, with changes highlighted. The full articles are not included, only the paragraphs containing changes. The article number cited are those within the January 2025 version of the rules, subject to change in future updates.

Current Text	Revised Text
<p>Article 27. Wheels</p> <p>b. The casters must be on separate axles positioned a minimum of Twenty (20) centimetres apart, measured centre to centre. The housing that holds the caster must be positioned no more than 2.5 centimetres away from the main frame of the wheelchair, measured from the inside edge of the housing to the outside edge of the mainframe.</p>	<p>b. The casters must be on separate axles positioned a minimum of Twenty (20) centimetres apart, measured centre to centre. Caster wheels must not emit light. The housing that holds the caster must be positioned no more than 2.5 centimetres away from the main frame of the wheelchair, measured from the inside edge of the housing to the outside edge of the mainframe.</p>

<p>Article 35. Classification</p> <p>The sum of the classification points of a team’s players on the court must be eight (8) or less. For each female player classified 0.5 to 1.5 on the court a team will be allowed an extra 0.5 points over and above the eight (8) points for the team.</p> <p>For each female player classified 2.0 to 3.5 on the court a team will be allowed an extra 1.0 points over and above the eight (8) points for the team.</p>	
<p>Article 46. Scorekeeper</p> <p>c. Record all time-outs on the score sheet, including the time, the period and the team who requested it.</p>	
<p>Article 50. Playing time</p> <p>Wheelchair rugby is played in four (4) periods of eight (8) minutes. There is a two (2) minute or three (3) minute interval at the end of the first period and the third period. There is a five (5) minute or ten (10) minute interval at the end of the second period. In the event of overtime, each period of overtime shall be three (3) minutes. There shall be a three (3) minute interval between the end of regulation play and the first overtime period. If additional overtime periods are required, there shall be a two (2) minute interval following each overtime period.</p>	<p>Article 50. Playing time</p> <p>Wheelchair rugby is played in four (4) periods of eight (8) minutes. There is a two (2) minute or three (3) minute interval at the end of the first period and the third period. There is a five (5) minute or ten (10) minute interval at the end of the second period. In the event of overtime, each period of overtime shall be three (3) minutes. There shall be a three (3) minute interval between the end of regulation play and the first overtime period. If additional overtime periods are required, there shall be a two (2) minute interval following each overtime period.</p>
<p>Article 51. Game clock operations</p> <p>c. When a Referee blows his whistle to signal a violation, foul, or any other stoppage in play.</p>	<p>c. When a Referee blows the whistle to signal a violation, foul, or any other stoppage in play.</p>
<p>Article 52. Forty Second clock operations</p> <p>The forty (40) second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when a team in possession requests, and is awarded a timeout, and time remaining on the forty (40) second clock is less than fifteen (15) seconds.</p>	<p>The forty (40) second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when the team in possession of the ball requests, and is awarded a timeout, and time remaining on the forty (40) second clock is less than fifteen (15) seconds.</p>

Article 56. Time-outs

Each team has three (3) time-outs of sixty (60) seconds per half that may be taken any time during regulation play. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the first half will not be carried over to the second half. At the end of regulation play, any time-outs remaining will not be carried over into overtime play. In the event of overtime, each team will receive one (1) time-out per overtime period. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the overtime period will not be carried over into subsequent overtime periods.

Only the coach or assistant coach may request a time-out. A time-out requested by a coach will only be granted when the ball is dead. The coach may make his request to the timekeeper at any time; the timekeeper will relay the request to a Referee at the next stoppage in play following the request.

When the Referee accepts a request for a time-out, he shall blow his whistle, signal that a time-out has been called, and indicate the team that has requested the time-out. This information shall be inscribed on the score sheet. During a time-out, players may remain on the court or return to their bench. Coaches and team staff may not enter the court during a time-out; if players require assistance or wish to converse with a coach or team staff, they must return to their bench. The team that requested the time-out may choose to terminate it and return to play at any time. The other team must resume play immediately. If the full time-out is taken, a warning shall be sounded after fifty (50) seconds to indicate that teams should return to the court and prepare to resume play. When the time-out has expired, play shall resume with a throw-in.

If a time-out is granted with less than one (1) minute remaining in the quarter or overtime period, and the location of the throw in is in the backcourt, the team in possession of the ball may request the ball be advanced to the front court. When the ball is advanced, the throw in location will be beside the penalty box closest to the try line.

Following the warning to resume play, players shall be given time to position themselves. If a Referee judges that a player or players are delaying, play shall resume as follows:

Each team has three (3) time-outs, sixty (60) seconds in length, per half that may be taken any time during regulation play. Teams must go to their respective benches when the time out is awarded and must remain there until the fifty (50) second warning sounds. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the first half will not be carried over to the second half. At the end of regulation play, any time-outs remaining will not be carried over into overtime play. In the event of overtime, each team will receive one (1) time-out per overtime period. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the overtime period will not be carried over into subsequent overtime periods.

Only the coach or assistant coach may request a time-out. A time-out request by a coach or assistant coach must be provided to the timekeeper prior to the dead ball in which the coach desires the time out. The timekeeper will relay the request to the referee crew at the next stoppage in play.

The time out will only be granted once the ball is dead. No conditions may be placed on the time out request. The coach may withdraw the time out request prior to the timekeeper signalling the request to referee crew.

When the Referee accepts a request for a time-out, they shall blow the whistle, signal that a time-out has been awarded, and indicate the team that has requested the time-out. This information shall be inscribed on the score sheet. During a time-out, players may remain on the court or return to their bench. Coaches and team staff may not enter the court during a time-out; if players require assistance or wish to converse with a coach or team staff, they must return to their bench. The team that requested the time-out may choose to terminate it and return to play at any time. The other team must resume play immediately. If the full time-out is taken, a warning shall be sounded after fifty (50) seconds to indicate that teams should return to the court and prepare to resume play. When the time-out has expired, play shall resume with a throw-in.

If a time-out is granted to the offensive team with less than one (1) minute remaining in the quarter or overtime period, and the location of

<p>a. If the team taking the throw-in is delaying, the Referee will begin the throw-in procedure at the appropriate point, placing the ball on the floor. If the in-bounding player takes his position before a violation of the throw-in occurs, the Referee shall place the ball at his disposal and continue the eight (8) second count.</p>	<p>the throw in is in the backcourt, the team in possession of the ball the coach may request the ball be advanced to the front court. When the ball is advanced, the throw in location will be beside the penalty box closest to the try line. Following the warning to resume play, players shall be given time to position themselves. If a Referee judges that a player or players are delaying, play shall resume as follows:</p> <p>a. If the team taking the throw-in is delaying, the Referee will begin the throw-in procedure at the appropriate point, placing the ball on the floor. If the in-bounding player takes his position before a violation of the throw-in occurs, the Referee shall place the ball at his disposal and continue the eight (8) second count.</p>
<p>Article 69. Throw-in e. After a time-out: i. if it was called after a try but before the ball had been in-bounded, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the end line chosen by the in-bounder; ii. if it was called in the backcourt and there was less than one (1) minute left on the game clock, the team in possession of the ball may advance the ball to the front court. If advanced, the location shall be beside the penalty box closest to the try line; and iii. at any other time, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the sideline opposite the scoring table nearest to the location of the ball when the time-out was called.</p>	<p>e. After a time-out: i. If awarded when a try created the dead ball opportunity but before the ball had been in-bounded, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the end line chosen by the in-bounder; ii. If the offense is awarded a time out in the backcourt with less than one (1) minute left on the game clock, the team in possession of the coach may advance the ball to the front court. If advanced, the location shall be beside the penalty box closest to the try line; and iii. at any other time, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the sideline opposite the scoring table nearest to the location of the ball when the time-out was called.</p>
<p>Article 79. Eight-second dribble violation A player who has possession of the ball must either pass or dribble the ball (Article 67) at least once every eight (8) seconds. Failure to do so is a violation.</p>	
<p>Article 80. Eight seconds in the key violation A player whose team has possession of the ball may not remain in the opposing team's key area for more than eight (8) seconds.</p>	
<p>Article 81. Throw-in violations The following rules apply to the throw-in: a. After the Referee has blown his whistle, the ball must be released by the in-bounder and be touched by a player on the court within eight (8) seconds.</p>	

<p>Article 88. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>b. Defensive - A common foul committed by the team not in possession of the ball will be sanctioned with a thirty (30) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The player serving the penalty will be released prior to the end of the thirty (30) second period if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try is awarded.</p> <p>If a defensive foul is committed when an offensive player is in possession of the ball and making a clear attempt to score, the Referee may award a penalty try in lieu of the thirty (30) second penalty.</p>	
<p>Article 98. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>A technical foul results from an administrative error or a violation of acceptable behavior and decorum. Technical fouls may be committed by a player or by bench personnel.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to a player is a thirty (30) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to bench personnel, including the coach, team staff, or substitutes, is a thirty (30) second penalty served by a player on the court chosen by the coach.</p> <p>A player serving a thirty (30) second penalty for a technical foul that is not a disqualifying foul will be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try has been awarded.</p>	
<p>Article 99. Player technical foul</p> <p>k. Using an unjustifiable excuse to obtain a stoppage in play, for example by: making a trivial request for an equipment time-out.</p>	
<p>Article 101. Equipment technical foul</p> <p>A coach may make a request to the Referee for an inspection of an opposing player's wheelchair during a stoppage in play. If the Referee finds that the wheelchair is legal, a technical foul shall be charged to the coach who made the request.</p>	

Article 104. Disqualifying foul

The sanction for a disqualifying foul is a forty (40) second penalty. This penalty is served for the full forty (40) seconds; the player serving the penalty will not be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try.