



Subject: 30th of April 2026

African Competition Zone

&

Membership call

Dear friends, colleagues and National Member Organisations

Following the publication of our strategic plan, I'm pleased to announce that the WWR Board of Directors approved the recommendation from our Competitions Working Group to create a new African Zone. Making progress within two of our areas of emphasis, "drive and invest in development and education to grow the game globally" & "advance and improve competitions and technical systems".

This is a monumental moment to see our sport expand into a continent that has huge potential and talent. With eleven countries either interested or actively competing, the opportunity for development is real. Four of these countries are currently Full or Affiliate Members.

I would like to specifically name and thank our African Regional General Manager, Clyde Holland for his drive and contribution to this significant moment. Also, Kathy Newman, Head of Competitions and Development for her tireless support.

Whilst I'm sure that you share my excitement, this strategic advancement will also come with questions from the membership. An outline of the detail is provided at the end of my letter and I encourage you all to consider your questions and submit them to the WWR Office.

These questions will be collated and answered at the next membership call.

worldwheelchair.rugby
info@worldwheelchair.rugby
+44 (0)114 257 3170

WWR Office
Canon Medical Arena
Worksop Road
Sheffield, England, S9 3TL



With that in mind, I'm providing dates and times for your diary, to once again join me and other members of WWR to discuss Africa and other topics. Further details and agenda items will be circulated shortly.

I have invited Brazil as our next hosts of the World Championship to present to you on how the event is progressing, how they are using the event to develop wheelchair rugby and also share with you many other projects taking place across Brazil.

Therefore, the format is slightly different and the dates and times are on two separate days

1st of July at 7pm UTC (Brazil presenting live)

2nd of July at 8am UTC (Brazil presentation will be a recording)

I hope that as many people as possible will join the calls particularly those from the "wheelchair rugby family" in Africa.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Allcroft OBE
WWR President



African Zone – an outline

World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR), currently recognises three competitive zones:

- Americas Zone (9 active countries)
- European Zone (15 active countries)
- Asia-Oceania Zone (10 active countries)

These zones facilitate regional development, competition and qualification pathways for global events such as the Paralympic Games and World Championships. There are currently 11 (eleven) countries interested or actively playing the sport of wheelchair rugby in Africa. Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda & Zimbabwe. 2025 Current membership - Nigeria and South Africa are Full members, Uganda and Kenya are Affiliate members.

Key reasons for approval and establishment

1. Regional Development and Inclusion

- Africa is currently underrepresented in international wheelchair rugby.
- A dedicated zone would encourage more grassroots development, national team formation, and regional collaboration.
- It aligns with WWR's mission to promote inclusivity and global growth of the sport.

2. Competitive Structure and Pathways

- An African zone would allow for regional championships, ranking systems and qualification events tailored to the continent.
- This mirrors the successful models in Europe, Americas and Asia-Oceania, where zonal competitions serve as stepping stones to global events (World Championships and Paralympic).

3. Capacity Building and Talent Identification

- Establishing a zone would facilitate coaching clinics, referee training, and classification workshops.
- It would help identify and nurture African talent, increasing the continent's representation at the international level.



WWR Africa Championship

- Establish biennial WWR Africa Championship licensed by WWR.
- All Africa Zone member teams that are in good standing with WWR receive a direct qualification to attend the WWR Africa Championship.
- Minimum of 3 teams need to attend WWR Africa Championship, unless circumstances don't allow teams to travel, compete or teams are not affiliated to WWR then 2 teams can compete at the Championship.
- Ensure all athletes are classified, teams meet anti-doping regulations and registration standards set by WWR.

Pathway to World Championship and Paralympics

- 2027 Africa Championship – Winner obtains qualification tournament slot for 2028 Paralympic Games
- 2029 Africa Championship – Winner obtains qualification tournament slot for 2030 World Championships
- 2031 Africa Championship – Winner obtains qualification tournament slot for 2032 Paralympic Games
- 2033 Africa Championship – Winner obtains direct qualification to 2034 World Championship. Runner Up obtains slot to 2034 World Qualification Tournament.
- 2035 Africa Championship – Winner obtains direct qualification to 2036 Paralympic Games. Runner Up obtains slot to 2036 Paralympic Games Qualification Tournament

NOTE – the pathway provided above will be reviewed on an annual basis. The WWR Board may determine changes are required. Close consultation with membership will always take place.

Conclusion

Establishing an official Africa Zone has been identified as a priority and key objective in the 2026 – 2029 WWR Strategic Plan.