

Equestrian

This is the only Paralympic sport where athletes work with an animal as part of the competition. It's fascinating to watch the rider and horse work as one to perform a set of moves or draw different shapes.

Rules & Events:

Competition by score awarded for performance

Five judges award points to the riders. Each judge gives a score out of ten for each performance section; the scores are then added together to determine the placings. The judging criteria include the accuracy, liveliness and beauty of the horse's moves.

The riders perform using a variety of ingenious solutions, including special harnesses modified according to their impairments and controlling the horse by holding the rein in their mouths if they are unable to hold it in their hands.

Special harness:

The harness is a belt attached to the saddle that is used for the riders' safety and is designed to come off immediately in case of danger.

Classification:

Athletes with physical and visual impairments are eligible for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and are divided into five classes (grades) according to the type and degree of impairment. A total of 11 mixed-gender events are held.

Column:

The relationship of trust between the rider and horse influences the game!

In equestrian, an encounter with a beautiful horse with high potential is said to be important. Above all, however, the rider's trust in the horse is an essential part of the sport. They deliver the best performance by communicating with their horse to understand its personality and abilities. While a large number of medallists come from European countries such as the equestrian powerhouse of Great Britain, Japan is also aiming to make a breakthrough with a stronger formation of riders.

Venue:

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, equestrian will be held at Equestrian Park.